U S War Dept

THE

WAR OF THE REBELLION:

A COMPILATION OF THE

OFFICIAL RECORDS

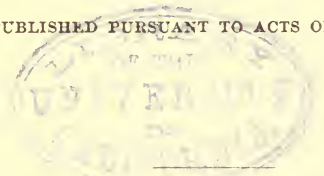
OF THE

UNION AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.

PREPARED, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR, BY

The late Lieut. Col. ROBERT N. SCOTT, Third U. S. Artillery.

PUBLISHED PURSUANT TO ACTS OF CONGRESS.



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ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

TO

SERIES I—VOLUME XXIV.

(To be inserted in the volume. For explanation see General Index volume, Serial No. 130, page XXVIII.).

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

The Hon. ELIHU ROOT, Secretary of War,

BY

BRIG. GEN. FRED C. AINSWORTH,
CHIEF OF THE RECORD AND PENSION OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT,

AND

MR. JOSEPH W. KIRKLEY.

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Mr. JOHN S. MOODEY, Indexer.

WASHINGTON:
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PREFACE.

By an act approved June 23, 1874, Congress made an appropriation "to enable the Secretary of War to begin the publication of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, both of the Union and Confederate Armies," and directed him "to have copied for the Public Printer all reports, letters, telegrams, and general orders not heretofore copied or printed, and properly arranged in chronological order."

Appropriations for continuing such preparation have been made from time to time, and the act approved June 16, 1880, has provided "for the printing and binding, under direction of the Secretary of War, of 10,000 copies of a compilation of the Official Records (Union and Confederate) of the War of the Rebellion, so far as the same may be ready for publication, during the fiscal year"; and that "of said number, 7,000 copies shall be for the use of the House of Representatives, 2,000 copies for the use of the Senate, and 1,000 copies for the use of the Executive Departments."*

This compilation will be the first general publication of the military records of the war, and will embrace all official documents that can be obtained by the compiler, and that appear to be of any historical value.

* Volumes I to V distributed under act approved June 16, 1880. The act approved August 7, 1882, provides that—

"The volumes of the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion shall be distributed as follows: One thousand copies to the Executive Departments, as now provided by law. One thousand copies for distribution by the Secretary of War among officers of the Army and contributors to the work. Eight thousand three hundred copies shall be sent by the Secretary of War to such libraries, organizations, and individuals as may be designated by the Senators, Representatives, and Delegates of the Forty-seventh Congress. Each Senator shall designate not exceeding twenty-six, and each Representative and Delegate not exceeding twenty-one of such addresses, and the volumes shall be sent thereto from time to time as they are published, until the publication is completed. Senators, Representatives, and Delegates shall inform the Secretary of War in each case how many volumes of those heretofore published they have forwarded to such addresses. The remaining copies of the eleven thousand to be published, and all sets that may not be ordered to be distributed as provided herein, shall be sold by the Secretary of War for cost of publication with ten per cent. added thereto, and the proceeds of such sale shall be covered into the Treasury. If two or more sets of said volumes are ordered to the same address the Secretary of War shall inform the Senators, Representatives, or Delegates, who have designated the same, who thereupon may designate other libraries, organizations, or individuals. The Secretary of War shall report to the first session of the Forty-eighth Congress what volumes of the series heretofore published have not been furnished to such libraries, organizations, and individuals. He shall also inform distributees at whose instance the volumes are sent."

The publication will present the records in the following order of arrangement:

The 1st Series will embrace the formal reports, both Union and Confederate, of the first seizures of United States property in the Southern States, and of all military operations in the field, with the correspondence, orders, and returns relating specially thereto, and, as proposed is to be accompanied by an Atlas.

In this series the reports will be arranged according to the campaigns and several theaters of operations (in the chronological order of the events), and the Union reports of any event will, as a rule, be immediately followed by the Confederate accounts. The correspondence, &c., not embraced in the "reports" proper will follow (first Union and next Confederate) in chronological order.

The 2d Series will contain the correspondence, orders, reports, and returns, Union and Confederate, relating to prisoners of war, and (so far as the military authorities were concerned) to State or political prisoners.

The 3d Series will contain the correspondence, orders, reports, and returns of the Union authorities (embracing their correspondence with the Confederate officials) not relating specially to the subjects of the *first* and *second* series. It will set forth the annual and special reports of the Secretary of War, of the General-in-Chief, and of the chiefs of the several staff corps and departments; the calls for troops, and the correspondence between the national and the several State authorities.

The 4th Series will exhibit the correspondence, orders, reports, and returns of the Confederate authorities, similar to that indicated for the Union officials, as of the *third* series, but excluding the correspondence between the Union and Confederate authorities given in that series.

ROBERT N. SCOTT,
Major Third Art., and Bvt. Lieut. Col.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August* 23, 1880.

Approved:

ALEX. RAMSEY,
Secretary of War.

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TEXT.

PART 1.

Pages 127, 130. For *Rigby* read *Wrigley*, wherever it occurs.
Page 393. Third line, bottom, for *We leave arranged*, etc., read *We have arranged*, etc.
Page 424. Prince's report, first and second lines, for *brigadier-general commanding* read *brigade commander.*
Page 519. Summary, etc., seventh line, for *Walls Post-Office, La.*, read *Walls Bridge, La.*
Page 617. Foot-note, for *p. 584* read *Part 2, p. 130.*
Pages 797–872. Strike out foot-note *No circumstantial reports on file*, wherever it occurs.
Page 844. Under *Ohio Troops, Cavalry*, insert *Regiments:* before *5th.*

PART 2.

Page 5. After *Grenada, Miss.*, last line, insert ‖ and add foot-note as follows: ‖ *See Series I, Vol. 30, Part 1, pp. 5–24.*
Pages 11, 45, 51. For *Swain* read *Swaim.*
Page 22. Erase * after *May 17*, second line, and insert †. Add foot-note, † *See Plate 37, Map 6, of the Atlas.*
Page 160. Insert under *Regulars, Lieut. Justus A. Boies, 13th Infantry*, and strike out under *West Virginia, Lieut. Justus A. Boies, 4th Infantry.*
Page 207. Insert [*Second*] after *First*, twenty-ninth line, top.
Page 389. Twenty-fourth line, top, for [*J. J.*] read [*C. C.*].
Pages 715–793. Strike out foot-note *No circumstantial reports on file*, wherever it occurs.

PART 3.

Page 24. Second Brigade, First Division, Sixteenth Corps, for *96th Illinois, Col. Thomas E. Champion*, read *90th Illinois, Col. Timothy O'Meara.*
Page 130. Erase foot-note and insert *See Series II, Vol. 5, pp. 371, 376.*
Page 259. Second Brigade, after *24th Missouri*, for *Company F* read *Company E.*
Page 296. Tenth line, bottom, for [*W. E. Prime?*] read [*Frederick E. Prime?*].
Page 342. Lincoln to Hurlbut, eighth line, for *Lexington* read *Livingston.*
Page 613. Beall's Brigade, for *31st Alabama* read *31st* [*49th?*] *Alabama.*
Page 688. Pemberton to Chalmers, date line, for *March 24* read *March 25.*
Page 767. Address, for *A. H. Chalmers* read *H. H. Chalmers.*
Page 919. Erase foot-note and insert *See Series I, Vol. 52, Part 2, p. 484.*
Page 974. Pemberton to Johnston, date line, insert [*22*] after *23.*
Page 1073. Strike out *Champion's* (*Thomas E.*) *Infantry. See Illinois Troops, 96th Regiment.*
Page 1085. Seventeenth line, top, for *6th and 16th* read *Norwood's and Snodgrass'.*
Page 1105. Strike out foot-note.

INDEX.

Insert all words and figures in *italics* and strike out all in [brackets]. An asterisk (*) following a correction indicates that "Additions and Corrections" to the text should be consulted. References are to parts of volume.

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OPERATIONS IN MISSISSIPPI AND WEST TENNESSEE,

INCLUDING THOSE IN ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA CONNECTED WITH THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

January 20–August 10, 1863.

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* Including the "General Reports" for whole period, January 20–August 10, 1863.

† Of some of the minor conflicts noted in this "Summary," no circumstantial reports are on file.

‡ See Series I, Vol. XXIII, Part I, p. 31.

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21, 1863.—Guerrilla attack on railway train between Bolivar and Grand Junction, Tenn.
21-22, 1863.—Scout from La Grange to Saulsbury, Tenn.
23, 1863.—Attack on the Warrenton batteries by the Hartford and Monongahela.
24, 1863.—Skirmish on Davis' Mill road, near La Grange, Tenn.
25, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg batteries by the Switzerland, and destruction of the Lancaster.
——April 1, 1863.—Expedition to Booneville, Miss.
28-April 3, 1863.—Expeditions from La Grange to Moscow and Macon, and action near Belmont, Tenn.
29, 1863.—Affair at Moscow, Tenn.
31, 1863.—Engagement at Grand Gulf, Miss.
31-April 3, 1863.—Scout from Lexington to mouth of Duck River, Tenn.

* See reports of Acting Rear Admiral David D. Porter and Lieutenant-Commander George Brown, U. S. Navy. (Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.)

Mar. 31-April 17, 1863.—Operations from Milliken's Bend to New Carthage, La.
Apr. 1-16, 1863.—Expedition from Jackson, Tenn., to the Hatchie River, and skirmishes.
2- 6, 1863.—Scout in Beaver Creek Swamp, Tenn.
2-14, 1863.—Expedition to Greenville, Black Bayou, and Deer Creek, Miss., with skirmishes, April 7, 8, and 10.
4, 1863.—Skirmish on Nonconnah Creek, near Memphis, Tenn.
5- 6, 1863.—Scout from Grand Junction to Saulsbury, Tenn.
5- 7, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Early Grove and Mount Pleasant, Miss.
9, 1863.—Skirmish near the Obion River, Tenn.
10-11, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Hudsonville, Lockhart's Mills, Mount Pleasant, and Early Grove, Miss.
11, 1863.—Scout from La Grange to Saulsbury, Tenn.
Skirmish at Courtney's Plantation, Miss.
15, 1863.—Expedition from La Grange to Saulsbury, Tenn.
15-May 2, 1863.—Dodge's expedition from Corinth, Miss., to Courtland, Ala.*
16, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg batteries by gunboats and transports.
17-May 2, 1863.—Grierson's raid from La Grange, Tenn., to Baton Rouge, La.
18-24, 1863.—Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to the Coldwater, Miss., including action (18th) at Hernando, and skirmish (19th) at Perry's Ferry.
19, 1863.—Skirmish at Trenton, Tenn.
22, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg and Warrenton batteries by transports.
24, 1863.—Expedition to Lake Saint Joseph, La.
25-29, 1863.—Expedition to Hard Times Landing, La., and skirmishes (26th) at Phelps' and Clark's Bayous, and (28th) at Choctaw Bayou, or Lake Bruin.
29, 1863.—Bombardment of Grand Gulf, Miss., and passage of the batteries.
29-May 1, 1863.—Demonstration against Haynes' and Drumgould's Bluffs, or engagement at Snyder's Mill, Miss.
29-May 5, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., into Northern Mississippi.
May 1, 1863.—Battle of Port Gibson, or Thompson's Hill, Miss.
2, 1863.—Skirmish on the South Fork of Bayou Pierre, Miss.
3, 1863.—Skirmishes on the North Fork of Bayou Pierre, at Willow Springs, Ingraham's Heights, Jones' Cross-Roads, Forty Hills, and Hankinson's Ferry, Big Black River, Miss.
4, 1863.—Engagement at Fort De Russy, Red River, La.
Attempt of the tug George Sturgess to pass the Vicksburg batteries.
Skirmish at Hankinson's Ferry, Miss.
5, 1863.—Action at King's Creek, near Tupelo, Miss.
Skirmish at Big Sandy Creek, Miss.
9, 1863.—Skirmish at Bayou Tensas, near Lake Providence, La.
Skirmish near Big Sandy Creek, Miss.
9-10, 1863.—Skirmishes at and near Utica, Miss.
10, 1863.—Skirmishes at Caledonia and Pin Hook, La.
Attack on Fort Beauregard, La.
11, 1863.—Raid on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, near Crystal Springs, Miss.
11-15, 1863.—Expedition from La Grange, Tenn., to Panola, Miss., and skirmishes (11th) at Coldwater and (14th) at Walnut Hill, Miss.
12, 1863.—Engagement at Raymond, Miss.

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* See Series I, Vol. XXIII, Part I, p. 241.

May 12, 1863.—Skirmish at Greenville, Miss.
Skirmish at Fourteen-Mile Creek, Miss.
13, 1863.—Skirmishes at Mississippi Springs and at Baldwin's and Hall's Ferries, Miss.
14, 1863.—Engagement at Jackson, Miss.

GENERAL REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, General-in-Chief, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Tennessee, including correspondence with the authorities at Washington, January 20–July 10.
No. 3.—Mr. Charles A. Dana, special commissioner of the United States War Department.
No. 4.—Capt. Frederick E. Prime, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Chief Engineer, of operations January 30–May 4.
No. 5.—Lieut. Col. James H. Wilson, Assistant Inspector-General, U. S. Army, Chief of Topographical Engineers, of operations April 24–May 11.
No. 6.—Capt. Ocran H. Howard, U. S. Signal Corps, Chief Signal Officer, of operations April 3–July 4.
No. 7.—Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand, U. S. Army, commanding Thirteenth Army Corps, of operations March 30–June 17, with resulting correspondence.
No. 8.—Lieut. Francis Tunica, Engineer Officer Ninth Division, of operations April 17–May 24.
No. 9.—Message of President Davis, transmitting to the Confederate Congress certain correspondence with General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army.
No. 10.—General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, of operations March 12–July 20.
No. 11.—Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana, of operations April 4–July 4.

No. 1.

Report of Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, General-in-Chief, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., November 15, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your orders, I submit the following summary of military operations since my last annual report:

* * * * * * *

DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE.

At the date of my last annual report [Nov. 9, 1862],* Major-General Grant occupied West Tennessee and the northern boundary of Mississippi. The object of the campaign of this army was the opening of the Mississippi River, in conjunction with the army of General Banks. General Grant was instructed to drive the enemy in the interior as far south as possible, and destroy their railroad communications; then to fall back to Memphis, and embark his available forces on transports, and, with the assistance of the fleet of Admiral Porter, reduce Vicksburg. The first part of this plan was most successfully executed, but the right wing of the army sent against Vicksburg, under Major-General Sherman, found that place much stronger than was expected. Two attacks were made on the 28th and 29th of December, but, failing in

* Bracketed matter in compilation is explanatory.

their object, our troops were withdrawn, and, while waiting for re-enforcements from General Grant, moved up the Arkansas River to Arkansas Post, which place was, with the assistance of the gunboats, captured on the 11th of January.

Our loss at Vicksburg was 191 killed, 982 wounded, and 756 missing; at Arkansas Post, 129 killed, 831 wounded, and 17 missing. We captured at the latter place 5,000 prisoners, 17 cannon, 3,000 small-arms, 46,000 rounds of ammunition, and 563 animals.*

General Grant now assumed the immediate command of the army on the Mississippi, which was largely re-enforced. Being satisfied by the result of General Sherman's operations that the north line of the enemy's works was too strong to be carried without a very heavy loss, he directed his attention to opening the canal, which had been commenced the year before by General Williams, across the peninsula, on the west bank of the river. This canal had been improperly located, its upper terminus being in an eddy and the lower terminus being exposed to the enemy's guns. Nevertheless, it was thought that it could be completed sooner than a new one could be constructed. While working parties, under Captain Prime, chief engineer of that army, were diligently employed upon this canal, General Grant directed his attention to several other projects for turning the enemy's position. These are fully described in his official report.

The canal proving impracticable, and his other plans being unsuccessful, he determined to move his army by land down the west bank of the river some 70 miles, while transports for crossing should run past the enemy's batteries at Vicksburg. The danger of running the batteries being very great, and the roads on the west side in horrible condition, this was a difficult and hazardous expedient, but it seemed to be the only possible solution of the problem. The execution of the plan, however, was greatly facilitated by Admiral Farragut, who had run two of his vessels past the enemy's batteries at Port Hudson and Grand Gulf, and cleared the river of the enemy's boats below Vicksburg, and, finally, through the indomitable energy of the commanding general and the admirable dispositions of Admiral Porter for running the enemy's batteries, the operation was completely successful.

The army crossed the river at Bruinsburg April 30, turned Grand Gulf, and engaged the enemy near Port Gibson on the 1st and at Fourteen-Mile Creek† on the 3d of May. The enemy was defeated in both engagements, with heavy loss. General Grant then moved his forces, by rapid marches, to the north, in order to separate the garrison of Vicksburg from the covering army of Johnston. This movement was followed by the battles of Raymond, May 12; of Jackson, May 14; of Champion's Hill, May 16, and Big Black River Bridge, May 17, in all of which our troops were victorious. General Grant then proceeded to invest Vicksburg.

In order to facilitate General Grant's operations, by destroying the enemy's line of communication and preventing the early concentration of any re-enforcements, Colonel (now Brigadier-General) Grierson was sent with a cavalry force from La Grange, on the 17th of April, to traverse the interior of the State of Mississippi. This expedition was most successfully conducted. It destroyed many of the enemy's railroad bridges, depots, and much rolling stock, and reached Baton Rouge, La., in safety, on the 2d of May.

On returning to Vicksburg, General Grant found his forces insuffi-

* See Series I, Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 708. † *Sic.* See Grant's report, p. 49.

cient to entirely invest the enemy's works. There was, therefore, danger that the two bodies of the enemy under Pemberton and Johnston might yet effect a junction, as it was known that the latter was being largely re-enforced from Bragg's army in Middle and East Tennessee. Under these circumstances, General Grant determined to attempt to carry the place by assault. Two unsuccessful attacks were made May 19 and 22, but, as re-enforcements reached him a few days after sufficiently large to enable him to completely invest the rebel defenses, he resorted to the slower, but more certain, operations of a regular siege. By the 3d of July his saps were so far advanced as to render his success certain, and on that day General Pemberton proposed an armistice and capitulation, which were finally accepted, and Vicksburg surrendered on the 4th of July.

In the language of General Grant's official report, the results of this short campaign were—

> The defeat of the enemy in five battles outside of Vicksburg, the occupation of Jackson, the capital of the State of Mississippi, and the capture of Vicksburg and its garrison and munitions of war, a loss to the enemy of 37,000 prisoners, among whom were 15 general officers, at least 10,000 killed and wounded, and among the killed Generals Tracy, Tilghman, and Green, and hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of stragglers, who can never be collected and reorganized. Arms and munitions of war for an army of 60,000 men have fallen into our hands, besides a large amount of other public property, consisting of railroads, locomotives, cars, steamboats, cotton, &c., and much was destroyed to prevent our capturing it.
>
> Our losses in the series of battles may be summed up as follows:*

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Port Gibson	130	718	5
Fourteen-Mile Creek (skirmish)	4	24	.....
Raymond	69	341	32
Jackson	40	240	6
Champion's Hill	426	1,842	189
Big Black Railroad Bridge	29	242	2
Vicksburg	545	3,688	303

> Of the wounded, many were but slightly wounded, and continued on duty; many more required but a few days or weeks for their recovery. Not more than one-half of the wounded were permanently disabled.

When we consider the character of the country in which this army operated, the formidable obstacles to be overcome, the number of the enemy's forces, and the strength of his works, we cannot fail to admire the courage and endurance of the troops and the skill and daring of their commander. No more brilliant exploit can be found in military history.

It has been alleged, and the allegation has been widely circulated by the press, that General Grant, in the conduct of his campaign, positively disobeyed the instructions of his superiors. It is hardly necessary to remark that General Grant never disobeyed an order or instruction, but always carried out, to the best of his ability, every wish or suggestion made to him by the Government; moreover, he has never complained that the Government did not furnish him all the means and assistance in its power to facilitate the execution of any plan which he saw fit to adopt.

* But see general summary of casualties, Part II, p. 167.

While the main Army of the Tennessee was operating against Vicksburg, the enemy's forces on the west side of the river made unsuccessful attacks on Milliken's Bend and Lake Providence, on the 6th and 10th of June. Our loss in the former was 101 killed, 285 wounded, and 266 missing; loss in the latter not reported. It is represented that the colored troops in these desperate engagements fought with great bravery, and that the rebels treated this class of prisoners of war, as well as their officers, with great barbarity. It has not been possible, however, to ascertain the correctness of these representations in regard to the treatment of these prisoners.

After the capture of Vicksburg, General Grant reported that his troops were so much fatigued and worn out with forced marches and the labors of the siege as to absolutely require several weeks of repose before undertaking another campaign. Nevertheless, as the exigencies of the service seemed to require it, he sent out those who were least fatigued on several important expeditions, while the others remained at Vicksburg to put that place in a better defensible condition for a small garrison.

As soon as Vicksburg capitulated, General Sherman was sent in pursuit of Johnston's forces. The latter retreated to Jackson, Miss., which place was taken by us on the 16th of July. Our loss was about 1,000 killed, wounded, and missing. General Sherman captured 764 prisoners, two rifled guns, a large amount of ammunition, and destroyed the railroad, rolling stock, &c. The enemy retreated toward the Alabama line, and General Sherman returned to Vicksburg to recuperate his forces.

A military and naval force was sent to Yazoo City on the 13th. It took 300 prisoners, captured one steamer, and burned five; took 6 cannon, 250 small-arms, and some 800 horses and mules. No loss on our side reported.

Small expeditions were also sent against Canton, Pontotoc, Grenada, and Natchez, Miss. At Grenada a large amount of rolling stock was destroyed, and near Natchez General Ransom captured 5,000 head of Texas cattle, a number of prisoners and teams, and a large amount of ammunition. The other expeditions were also successful, meeting with very little opposition.

As soon as his army was supplied and rested, General Grant sent a force, under General Steele, to Helena, to co-operate with General Schofield's troops against Little Rock, and another, under Generals Ord and Herron, to New Orleans to re-enforce General Banks for such ulterior operations as he might deem proper to undertake.

Small expeditions were also sent to the Red River and to Harrisonburg and Monroe, on the Washita, to break up and destroy guerrilla bands.

After General Grant left Vicksburg to assume the general command east of the Mississippi, General McPherson moved with a part of his force to Canton, Miss., scattering the enemy's cavalry and destroying his materials and roads in the center of that State.

* * * * * * *

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

No. 2.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, U. S. Army, commanding Army of the Tennessee, including correspondence with the authorities at Washington, January 20–July 10.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Memphis, Tenn., January 20, 1863.

I returned here last night from a visit to the expedition under General McClernand. I had a conversation with Admiral Porter, General McClernand, and General Sherman. The former and latter, who have had the best opportunity of studying the enemy's positions and plans, agree that the work of reducing Vicksburg is one of time, and will require a large force at the final struggle. With what troops I have already designated from here, no more forces will be required for the present, but I will suggest whether it would not be well to know beforehand where they are to come from when required, if required at all.

The enemy have the bluffs from Haynes' Bluff, on the Yazoo (this is where the raft across the river is constructed), to the Mississippi, and down until they recede from the river, completely and thoroughly fortified.

I propose running a canal through, starting far enough above the old one commenced last summer to receive the stream where it impinges against the shore with the greatest velocity. The old canal left the river in an eddy, and in a line perpendicular to the stream, and also to the crest of the hills opposite, with a battery directed against the outlet. This new canal will debouch below the bluffs on the opposite side of the river, and give our gunboats a fair chance against any fortifications that may be placed to oppose them.

But for the intolerable rains that we have had, and which have filled the swamps and bayous so that they cannot dry up again this winter, a landing might be effected at Milliken's Bend, and roads constructed through to the Yazoo above the raft or Haynes' Bluff, and the enemy's works turned from that point. Once back of the intrenchments on the crest of the bluffs, the enemy would be compelled to come out and give us an open field fight, or submit to having all his communications cut and be left to starve out.

I would make no suggestions unasked if you were here to see for yourself, or if I did not know that as much of your time is taken up with each of several other departments as with this. As, however, I control only the troops in a limited department, and can only draw reenforcements from elsewhere by making application through Washington, and as a demonstration made upon any part of the old district of West Tennessee might force me to withdraw a large part of the force from the vicinity of Vicksburg, I would respectfully ask if it would not be policy to combine the four departments in the West under one commander. As I am the senior department commander in the West, I will state that I have no desire whatever for such combined command, but would prefer the command I now have to any other that can be given.

I regard it as my duty to state that I found there was not sufficient confidence felt in General McClernand as a commander, either by the Army or Navy, to insure him success. Of course, all would co-operate to the best of their ability, but still with a distrust. This is a matter I made no inquiries about, but it was forced upon me. As it is my intention to command in person, unless otherwise directed, there is no

special necessity of mentioning this matter; but I want you to know that others besides myself agree in the necessity of the course I had already determined upon pursuing. Admiral Porter told me that he had written freely to the Secretary of the Navy, with the request that what he said might be shown to the Secretary of War.

General Gorman had gone up the White River with most of his forces, taking a great deal of the river transportation with him. I find great difficulty in getting boats to transport the troops. With the orders I gave, however, to release boats as fast as they can be dispensed with, I hope to remedy all difficulties of this kind.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

General H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.

—

MEMPHIS, TENN., *January* 20, 1863—11.30 a. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

I found the Mississippi expedition at the mouth of the Arkansas, and started it from there immediately to Young's Point. A canal will at once be surveyed and cut. The weather is highly unfavorable for operations, and streams all very high and rising. The work of reducing Vicksburg will take time and men, but can be accomplished. Gorman has gone up the White River with a great part of his force. So many transports being kept there, makes it almost impossible to get transportation for troops. Both banks of the Mississippi should be under one commander, at least during present operations.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

—

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, January 21, 1863.

Major-General GRANT, *Memphis:*

GENERAL: The President has directed that so much of Arkansas as you may desire to control be temporarily attached to your department. This will give you control of both banks of the river.*

In your operations down the Mississippi you must not rely too confidently upon any direct co-operation of General Banks and the lower flotilla, as it is possible that they may not be able to pass or reduce Port Hudson. They, however, will do everything in their power to form a junction with you at Vicksburg. If they should not be able to effect this, they will at least occupy a portion of the enemy's forces and prevent them from re-enforcing Vicksburg. I hope, however, that they will do still better and be able to join you.

It may be proper to give you some explanation of the revocation of your order expelling all Jews from your department. The President has no objection to your expelling traitors and Jew peddlers, which, I suppose, was the object of your order; but, as it in terms proscribed an entire religious class, some of whom are fighting in our ranks, the President deemed it necessary to revoke it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

* See telegram from Halleck to Grant, same date, quoted in Grant to Gorman, January 22, Part III, p. 5.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *January* 25, 1863.

Major-General GRANT, *Memphis, Tenn.:*

Direct your attention particularly to the canal proposed across the point. The President attaches much importance to this.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

—

MEMPHIS, TENN., *January* 25, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

I leave for the fleet at Vicksburg to-morrow. Since leaving there, one week ago, I have not had one word from them. The constant rains and tremendous rise in the river may operate against us for the time being.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

—

MEMPHIS, TENN., *January* 27, 1863—7 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

News just received from Vicksburg says water now in old canal, and rising rapidly. In a short time our batteries of Parrott guns will command the river below town. Vicksburg papers say that General Banks is fortifying Baton Rouge. I hold two divisions here ready to re-enforce the expedition as soon as wanted; also Gorman's forces.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

—

VICKSBURG, MISS., *January* 29, 1863—5 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Water in the canal is 5 feet deep, and river rising. There is no wash, however, and no signs of its enlarging. I will let the water in from the Yazoo up, and try the effect. I have ordered troops from Helena, escorted by a gunboat, the whole in charge of Colonel Wilson, topographical engineer, to cut the levee across Yazoo Pass, and to explore through to the Coldwater, if possible.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

—

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS.,
January 31, 1863—3 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

I am pushing everything to gain a passage, avoiding Vicksburg. Prospects not flattering by the canal of last summer. Other routes are being prospected, and work in the mean time progressing on the old canal.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, February 1, 1863.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.:

COLONEL: Herewith I inclose you copy of General Orders, No. 13, from these headquarters, and of correspondence between General McClernand and myself, growing out of it.

It is due to myself to state that I am not ambitious to have this or any other command. I am willing to do all in my power in any position assigned me.

General McClernand was assigned to duty in this department, with instructions to me to assign him to the command of an army corps operating on the Mississippi River, and to give him the chief command, under my direction. This I did, but subsequently receiving authority to assign the command to any one I thought most competent, or to take it myself, I determined to at least be present with the expedition.*

If General Sherman had been left in command here, such is my confidence in him that I would not have thought my presence necessary. But whether I do General McClernand injustice or not, I have not confidence in his ability as a soldier to conduct an expedition of the magnitude of this one successfully. In this opinion I have no doubt but I am borne out by a majority of the officers of the expedition, though I have not questioned one of them on the subject.

I respectfully submit this whole matter to the General-in-Chief and the President. Whatever the decision made by them, I will cheerfully submit to and give a hearty support.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 13. HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *In Field, Young's Point, La., January* 30, 1863.

I. Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, commanding Department of the Tennessee, hereby assumes the immediate command of the expedition against Vicksburg, and department headquarters will hereafter be with the expedition.

II. Army corps commanders will resume the immediate command of their respective corps, and will report to and receive orders direct from these headquarters.

III. As army corps to be effective should be complete in their organization, and ready at all times for any move they may be called on to make, without looking to department or other headquarters for anything more than the replenishing of their supplies, no changes or transfers will be made by department orders, unless absolutely necessary for the interest of the service.

IV. The Thirteenth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. J. A. McClernand commanding, is charged with garrisoning the post of Helena, Ark., and any other point on the west bank of the river it may be necessary to hold south of that place.

By order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant:

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

* See Series I, Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 476, and Part II, p. 555.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, January 30, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

General Orders, No. 13, is this moment received. I hasten to inquire whether its purpose is to relieve me from the command of all or any portion of the forces composing the Mississippi River expedition, or, in other words, whether its purpose is to limit my command to the Thirteenth Army Corps. I am led to make this inquiry, because, while such seems to be the intention, it conflicts with the order of the Secretary of War, made under the personal direction of the President, bearing date October 21, 1862, of which the following is an extract:

> Major-General McClernand is directed to proceed to the States of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, to organize the troops remaining in those States, * * * and forward them * * * to Memphis, Cairo, or such other points as may hereafter be designated, * * * to the end that when a sufficient force not required by the operations of General Grant's command [then in West Tennessee] shall be raised, an expedition may be organized under General McClernand's command against Vicksburg and to clear the Mississippi to New Orleans.

Also with the order of the General-in-Chief to you, dated December 18, 1862, of which the following is an extract:

> It is the wish of the President that General McClernand's corps shall constitute a part of the river expedition, and that he shall have the immediate command, under your direction.

Also with your communication of the same date, based on the preceding order, and giving me command of the expedition, and with your verbal assurance of yesterday that my relations to the forces here would continue undisturbed.*

I repeat that I respectfully ask for an explanation of this seeming conflict of authority and orders, that I may be enabled to guide my action intelligently.

By [Special] Orders, No. 22, you extend your command as far west from the Mississippi River as your orders may reach. By General Orders, No. 13, you charge the Thirteenth Army Corps with garrisoning Helena and other points south. Is it to be understood that my command west of the Mississippi is so coextensive with the purview of Special Orders, No. 22?

Again, you charge the Thirteenth Army Corps with garrisoning the west bank of the Mississippi. Am I to understand that I am to act on my own judgment in fixing the number, strength, and location of those garrisons, or simply by your directions? It is quite obvious that the whole or a large portion of the Thirteenth Army Corps must be absorbed by these garrisons if the purpose is to afford complete protection to all lawful vessels navigating the river; and thus, while having projected the Mississippi River expedition, and having been by a series of orders assigned to the command of it, I may be entirely withdrawn from it.

For the reason last stated, and because the portion of the Thirteenth Army Corps taking part in this expedition is very much smaller than any other corps of your command, and because my forces are here and

* See Series I, Vol. XVII, Part II, p. 425.

those of others have yet to come, why not detach from the latter to garrison the river shore and relieve all those here from liability to that charge?

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, January 31, 1863.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: The intention of General Orders, No. 13, is that I will take direct command of the Mississippi River expedition, which necessarily limits your command to the Thirteenth Army Corps.

In charging the Thirteenth Army Corps with garrisoning the west bank of the river, I add to it any forces belonging to any command on that bank not already assigned to other corps, and, instead of weakening your force in the field, it will strengthen it by about 7,000 men, still leaving a proper garrison at Helena, the only place I now deem necessary to garrison. All forces and posts garrisoned by the Thirteenth Army Corps are under your command, subject, of course, to directions from these headquarters.

I regard the President as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and will obey every order of his, but as yet I have seen no order to prevent my taking immediate command in the field, and since the dispatch referred to in your note, I have received another from the General-in-Chief of the Army, authorizing me directly to take command of this army.

I at first thought I would publish no order taking command, but soon saw it would be much more convenient to issue orders direct to corps commanders whilst present with the command than through another commander.

Your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Vicksburg, February 1, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: Your dispatch of this date, in answer to mine of yesterday, is received. You announce it to be the intention of General Orders, No. 13, to relieve me from the command of the Mississippi River expedition, and to circumscribe my command to the Thirteenth Army Corps, and undertake to justify the order by authority granted by the General-in-Chief. I acquiesce in the order for the purpose of avoiding a conflict of authority in the presence of the enemy, but, for reasons set forth in my dispatch of yesterday, which, for anything disclosed, I still hold good, I protest against its competency and justice, and respectfully request that this, my protest, together with the accompanying paper, may be forwarded to the General-in-Chief, and through him to the Secretary of War and the President. I request this, not only in

respect for the President and Secretary, under whose express authority I claim the right to command the expedition, but in justice to myself as its author and actual promoter.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

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VICKSBURG, MISS.,
February 3, 1863—1 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

One of the rams ran the blockade this morning. This is of vast importance, cutting off the enemy's communication with the west bank of the river. One steamboat, lying at Vicksburg, was run into, but not sunk. Work on the canal is progressing as rapidly as possible.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, February 4, 1863.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington City:

COLONEL: Herewith I inclose you reports from Colonel Deitzler and Lieutenant-Colonel Duff, from Lake Providence, fifty-odd miles above here.

On examining the route of the present canal, I lost all faith in its ever leading to any practical results. The canal is at right angles with the thread of the current at both ends, and both ends are in an eddy, the lower coming out under bluffs completely commanding it. Warrenton, a few miles below, is capable of as strong defenses as Vicksburg, and the enemy, seeing us at work here, have turned their attention to that point. Our labors, however, have had the effect of making the enemy divide his forces and spread their big guns over a great deal of territory. They are now fortified from Haynes' Bluff to Warrenton. Taking the views I did, I immediately on my arrival here commenced, or ordered, other routes prospected.

One of these is by the way of Yazoo Pass into Coldwater, the Tallahatchee, and Yazoo Rivers. This is conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, from whom no report is yet received. This route, if practicable, would enable us to get high ground above Haynes' Bluff, and would turn all the enemy's river batteries.

Another is by Lake Providence and the network of bayous connecting it with Red River. The accompanying reports show the feasibility of this route.

A third is by the way of Willow and Roundaway Bayous, leaving the Mississippi at Milliken's Bend, and coming in at New Carthage. There is no question but that this route is much more practicable than the present undertaking, and would have been accomplished with much less labor if commenced before the water had got all over the country. The work on the present canal is being pushed. New inlet and outlet are being made, so that the water will be received where the current strikes the shore, and will be carried through in a current.

Respectfully, &c.,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, MCARTHUR'S DIVISION,
Lake Providence, La., February 3, 1863.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Department of the Tennessee:

COLONEL: Dispatch, per War Eagle, just received. I send by same boat 100 able-bodied negroes; all that can be secured at present. Will send out to-morrow and collect as many as possible, and forward them.

The planters have sent most of their negroes and cotton back into the country, on Bayou Macon, some 12 or 15 miles from here, and we shall, therefore, probably not be able to send you many hands to work on the canal.

Colonel Duff has permitted me to read his report respecting the object and probable result of our expedition, which covers the ground.

The water in the lake is about 8 feet lower than the surface of the river. In about six days we hope to be able to complete a cut in the levee, 100 feet wide, which will connect the lake and the river by a channel 5 feet deep.

I do not think that we will have any considerable difficulty in finding a passage for gunboats and small stern-wheel boats through Baxter Bayou and Bayou Macon, a distance of from 10 to 15 miles.

When the water in Lake Providence rises to the level of the water in the Mississippi, Baxter Bayou will furnish a passage for large boats; it will only be necessary to cut a few trees, so as not to interfere with chimneys. Once in Bayou Macon, we shall have a clear coast to Red River.

I look upon the prospect as entirely practicable, and shall feel very much disappointed if the gunboats do not pass through to Bayou Macon within three weeks.

At Trenton, 1 mile above Monroe, on Washita River, the rebels have several batteries and a small infantry force. This force and batteries were at Monroe until the time our troops destroyed the depot at Delhi.

About 35 miles west of Monroe, at Raven's Lake, the rebels have extensive salt-works, where they employ several thousand negroes. I learn that these works supply the whole southwest with salt, and they ought to be destroyed.

There are in this vicinity many articles on "the list of loyal captures," such as horses, mules, and cattle. I can "gobble up" and send down a large supply of the latter if desired.

When the next boat comes up, will you please instruct the captain to touch at General McArthur's headquarters and bring up our mail?

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. W. DEITZLER,
Colonel First Kansas, Commanding First Brigade.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

ON BOARD U. S. STEAMER LINDEN,
Providence, La., February 3, 1863.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

COLONEL: In consequence of an impenetrable fog and other causes of detention beyond my control, the expedition for the connection of Lake Providence with the Mississippi River did not reach this place

till about 2 p. m. Sunday, 1st instant. At the time of landing I was prostrated from a severe bilious attack, which had set in almost immediately on our leaving the fleet, and from which I have not yet recovered.

Immediately on landing, Colonel Deitzler disembarked and occupied the remainder of the day in making a partial reconnaissance of the relative positions of the lake and river, returning without coming to any definite conclusion as to the place best suited to make the connection, but fully convinced that a connection was entirely practicable.

Yesterday morning a party of 80 mounted men, under the command of Colonel Deitzler, and accompanied by Lieutenant [Herman] A.] Ulffers, Captain [Thomas E.] Smith, of the gunboat, and myself (though still very sick), made the entire circuit of the lake, taking the course along the bayou, on the upper side of the lake, as per accompanying chart,* and returning to Providence across Bayou Tensas.

The bayou on the upper side of the lake, although very easily connected with the river, and, as far as depth of water is concerned, better than the canal finally decided upon, is too crooked and too much obstructed by timber to be made available for navigation for several weeks, while the course of the proposed canal upon which we are now working is short, and the work can be done within a week, nature having already done the best part of it, and when completed it will give a depth of 5 feet, sufficient for any vessel the dimensions of which would admit of passing through Bayou Tensas or Baxter. Either plan involves the destruction of the town (now nearly deserted), but neither Colonel Deitzler nor myself thought this a matter of sufficient importance to interfere with the accomplishment of the object in view. On our reconnaissance yesterday we passed down the left bank of Tensas Bayou about a mile, and found it navigable. To make sure, however, whether Tensas or Baxter is best suited for our purpose, a strong reconnoitering party has gone out to-day, which has not yet returned. One of these outlets being decided upon as the best, the other, we propose, if possible, to close before admitting the water from the river. In any event, I do not doubt the entire practicability, during high water, of passing with such vessels as the mosquito fleet from the Mississippi and the Red River. We have heard, however, of a battery on the Washita, near Monroe, planted there with a view to the defense of extensive salt-works in that neighborhood, by means of which, I am informed, the whole of that part of rebeldom and the army in Mississippi and Arkansas are supplied with that indispensable article.

On this subject I hope to be better informed in a few days, when I will immediately advise you. I have sanguine hopes, shared in by Colonel Deitzler, that the general commanding may authorize an expedition to destroy these salt-works, should the information we have from negroes be confirmed.

I should mention that yesterday we met with no obstacles from guerrillas. A few fleeing horsemen were chased, when they dismounted and took to the swamps, leaving their horses and arms, which were captured. We have also driven in some beef-cattle.

Trusting that so much as has been done will meet the approval of the major-general commanding, I remain, colonel, yours, very respectfully,

W. L. DUFF,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Chief of Artillery, Dept. of the Tennessee.

* Not found.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., February 6, 1863.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.:

COLONEL: Inclosed I send you a report of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson,* of the prospects of effecting a safe passage into the Yazoo River by the way of Yazoo Pass. Admiral Porter will have this pass thoroughly explored by light-draught gunboats, upon which I am putting 600 riflemen from the army.

It is to be hoped that this expedition will be able to capture all the transports in the Yazoo and tributaries and destroy two gunboats said to be in course of construction. They will also attempt to ascend the Yalabusha to Grenada, and, if possible, destroy the railroad bridges.

The ram that ran the blockade on the 2d instant has returned to the lower end of the peninsula, opposite Vicksburg. She went as far as Red River, and some miles up it, capturing and destroying three steamboats loaded with commissary stores, and took about 60 prisoners. I send dispatches, every day or two, to be telegraphed from Memphis, but as I do not know that they get through, I think it necessary to notify you of the fact.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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BEFORE VICKSBURG, MISS., *February 9, 1863—Noon.*
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *February 12.*

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

The continuous rise in the river has kept the army busy to keep out of water, and much retarded work on the canal. I hope to be able to say something definite, in a day or so, of the practicability of the other route mentioned in previous dispatches.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, February 13, 1863.

Major-General GRANT, *Via Memphis, Tenn.:*

Cannot dredge-boats be used with advantage on the canal? There are four lying idle at Louisville, belonging to Boston, Robinson & Co., canal contractors.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA.,
Via Memphis, Tenn., February 15, 1863—12 p. m.

Major-General HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

Steamboats through Yazoo Pass have gone to within 6 miles of Coldwater. Express no fear but that they will reach it and the Yazoo.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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* Wilson's reports, of February 2 and 4, transmitted with this communication. See No. 1, pp. 371, 373.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., February 18, 1863.

General H. W. HALLECK, *Washington, D. C.*:

GENERAL: The work upon the canal here is progressing as well as possible, with the excessively bad weather and high water we have had to contend against. Most of the time that troops could be out at all has been expended in keeping water out of our camps. Five good working days would enable the force here to complete the canal 60 feet wide, and of sufficient depth to admit any vessel here. Judging from the past, it is fair to calculate that it will take from ten to twelve days to get those five days. Three more, perhaps, should be allowed, from the fact that the work is being done by soldiers, the most of whom, under the most favorable circumstances, could not come up to the calculations of the engineer officers.

McPherson's army corps is at Lake Providence, prosecuting the work there. They could not be of any service in helping on the work here, because there are already as many men as can be employed on it, and then he would have to go 5 or 6 miles above to find land above water to encamp on. I am using a few hundred contrabands on the work here, but have been compelled to prohibit any more coming in. Humanity dictates this policy.

Planters have mostly deserted their plantations, taking with them all their able-bodied negroes and leaving the old and very young. Here they could not have shelter nor means of transportation when we leave.

I have sent a division of troops from Helena to join the Yazoo expedition under Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson. His last report was sent you a few days ago. If successful, they will destroy the railroad bridges at Grenada and capture or destroy all the transports in the Yazoo and tributaries.

The health of this command is not what is represented in the public journals. It is as good as any previous calculation could have prognosticated. I believe, too, that there is the best of feeling and greatest confidence of success among them. The greatest drawback to the spirits of the troops has been the great delay in paying them. Many of them have families at home who are, no doubt, in a suffering condition for want of the amount due them, and they are bound for their support.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

BEFORE VICKSBURG, MISS., *February* 25, 1863—12.30 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 1.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

The Queen of the West is now at Warrenton, with the rebel flag flying. Distant firing was heard, lasting from 4 p. m. yesterday until 1 this morning. It is supposed to have been between the Queen and Indianola. Apprehension is felt for the safety of the Indianola.

U. S. GRANT.

BEFORE VICKSBURG, MISS., *February* 27, 1863—2.30 p. m.
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 2.

Major-General HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

News just received that the Queen of the West and Webb attacked the Indianola about 35 miles below Vicksburg the night of the 24th,

and, after an engagement of about forty minutes, captured her with most of her crew. It is said the Indianola afterward sank.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, March 1, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Near Vicksburg, Miss.:

GENERAL: There is a vacant major-generalcy in the Regular Army, and I am authorized to say that it will be given to the general in the field who first wins an important and decisive victory.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 5, 1863—2.26 p. m.

Major-General GRANT,
Near Vicksburg, Miss.:

It is of great importance that transports be returned from your command as far as it is possible; otherwise you will be short of supplies. Steam vessels on the upper rivers are very scarce. Vessels on the river between Memphis and Vicksburg should go in fleets, under convoy. Make requisition on Admiral Porter for convoys. The unnecessary detention of transports down the Mississippi River is a matter of the most serious importance, and requires your immediate attention.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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BEFORE VICKSBURG, MISS., *March* 6, 1863—12 p. m.
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *March* 12.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

The canal is near completion. Troops expected from Saint Louis not yet heard from. I will have Vicksburg this month, or fail in the attempt.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., March 7, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I telegraphed you yesterday the near approach to completion of the canal. The water is extremely high; several feet above the highest ground inside the levee. Last night one of the dams across the upper end of the canal gave way, filling up where men were at work getting out stumps, and thus setting back the work for several days. I hope yet, however, to have this work completed as early as I could possibly take advantage of it if it was already done.

The troops expected from Saint Louis are not yet heard from, and all that I am bringing from West Tennessee are not yet down.

The work of getting through Lake Providence and Bayou Macon, there is but little possibility of proving successful. If the work had been commenced in time, however, there is but little question of the success of the enterprise. The land from Lake Providence and also from Bayou Macon recedes until the lowest interval between the two widens out into a cypress swamp, where Bayou Baxter, which connects the two, is lost. This flat is now filled to the depth of several feet with water, making the work of clearing out the timber exceedingly slow, and rendering it impracticable to make an artificial channel. The Yazoo Pass expedition is a much greater success. Admiral Porter sent in four gunboats, and I sent a fleet of transports, with about 6,000 men. They were to clear the Yazoo and tributaries of all steamboats and embryo gunboats, and, if possible, destroy the railroad bridges at Grenada. The gunboats were to approach as near Haynes' Bluff as possible, and fire signal guns to warn the squadron in the mouth of the Yazoo of their presence.

Last night, about 12 o'clock, Admiral Porter sent me word that the signal agreed upon had been heard.

I am now sending General McPherson, with his army corps and enough other troops to make full 25,000 effective men, to effect a lodgment on the high ground on the east bank of the Yazoo. Once there, with his entire force he will move down in transports and by land to the vicinity of Haynes' Bluff. Before moving down, however, below Yazoo City, General McPherson will be made acquainted with the full plan of attack that may then be determined upon, and the time will be so arranged that there will be full co-operation of my entire force. Our movements have evidently served to distract the enemy and make him scatter his heavy guns. His forces are also scattered, but they, with the light artillery, can be got to any one point.

The health of this command is good, and the greatest confidence felt by officers and men. The most ample provision that I ever saw has been made for the comfort of the sick.

The dredging machines brought here by Col. G. G. Pride work to a charm. After the accident of last night, all work would have had to be suspended until there was a fall of at least 3 feet (the river is still rising), but for these machines. Much credit is due Colonel Pride for his selection of them. But for his personal attention to the selection of them, old and worn-out ones would have been sent, and the result probably would have been that they would have given out before their work was half done.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, March 17, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: Since the giving way of the dam at the upper end of the canal, work with the dredges has progressed favorably, but all attempts to stop the rush of water into the canal have proved abortive. If required, however, the canal can be made to pass boats of ordinary size in a few days.

The enemy were busily engaged firing from the opposite heights yesterday and last night at the dredge-boat nearest the lower end of the canal. Their shots did no damage, though many of the large ones reached half way across the point.

Ordinary Ohio River boats can now pass from Lake Providence into Bayou Macon, and thence, by easy navigation, to the mouth of Red River.

I make no calculations upon using this route for the present, but it may be turned to practical use after effecting present plans. The same may be said of the canal across the point.

I learn from Jackson (Miss.) papers, of the 14th, that one of our gunboats had run down to Greenwood and exchanged a few shots with the fort at that point. Further information from the enemy shows that several thousand troops have gone from Vicksburg up the Yazoo River. Besides four gunboats (one of them iron-clad) I have a division of troops there now, and Quinby's division in the pass on their way down. One division from Memphis should also be on their way now. The great difficulty of getting small-class steamers adapted to this service has retarded movements by the way of Yazoo Pass materially.

To hem in the enemy on the Yazoo, Admiral Porter has gone into Deer Creek by the way of Steele's Bayou and Little Black Bayou. From there he can get into the Yazoo either by running up Deer Creek to Rolling Fork, thence through the fork and down the Big Sunflower, all of which are navigable, or down Deer Creek to the Yazoo.

Admiral Porter and myself went up Steele's Bayou to Little Black Bayou on the 15th. With the exception of overhanging trees in some places, the navigation was good for the gunboat General Price. I am having those obstructions removed. We were preceded by four of the old iron-clads, that found no difficulty in the navigation. I returned in the evening for the purpose of hurrying up men and means for clearing the channel. I also sent Sherman to make a reconnaissance in company with the gunboats, with a view of effecting a landing with troops on high ground on the east bank of the Yazoo, from which to act against Haynes' Bluff.

Last night I received a dispatch from Admiral Porter saying that the iron-clads had pushed into Black Bayou, and had reached to within a quarter of a mile of Deer Creek, where they had become entangled in the timber, and could not move until it was cut out, and asking me for a force of 3,000 men to act with him. Fortunately I had already sent all that the boats at hand suitable for that navigation and immediately available could carry. I am now sending the remainder of Sherman's old division, and will push troops through, if Sherman reports favorably, as fast as our means will admit. These troops go up the Mississippi River in large transports about 30 miles, and to where Steele's Bayou comes within 1 mile of the Mississippi. The small-class boats can ferry them from that point, and thus save the distance from the mouth of the Yazoo to, and also the most difficult part of the navigation in, Steele's Bayou.

There is evident indication of considerable excitement in Vicksburg. I think they are removing many of their troops, but cannot satisfy myself to what point. Some we know have gone up the Yazoo, and it may be that others are going to Port Hudson. I have no means of learning anything from below, except what is occasionally learned through Southern papers.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

WASHINGTON, *March* 20, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: Your letter of March 7 is received. It is the first communication from you for some time which has reached here. It is very desirable that you keep us advised of your operations, in order that proper instructions may be sent to General Banks, General Rosecrans, &c. Send telegrams to Memphis by every opportunity.

In operating by the Yazoo, you have, no doubt, fully considered the advantages and dangers of the expedition. Our information here on that subject is very limited and unsatisfactory. There is one point, however, which has been discussed, and to which I would particularly call your attention; it is the danger, on the fall of the water in the Mississippi, of having your steamers caught in the Upper Yazoo, so as to be unable to extricate them. In the present scarcity of steamers on the western rivers, this would be a very serious loss. Another danger is, that the enemy may concentrate a large force upon the isolated column of McPherson without your being able to assist him. I mention these matters in order that you may give them your full attention.

When the operations of an army are directed to one particular object it is always dangerous to divide forces. All accessories should be sacrificed for the sake of concentration. The great object on your line now is the opening of the Mississippi River, and everything else must tend to that purpose. The eyes and hopes of the whole country are now directed to your army. In my opinion, the opening of the Mississippi River will be to us of more advantage than the capture of forty Richmonds. We shall omit nothing which we can do to assist you.

Permit me to repeat the importance of your frequently advising me by telegraph from Memphis.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, March 24, 1863.

Major-General GRANT,
Before Vicksburg, Miss.:

I must again call your attention to the importance of your not retaining so many steamers in the Mississippi. It is absolutely necessary that a part of these boats be returned. We cannot otherwise supply our armies in Tennessee and Kentucky. This matter must be attended to without delay.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *March* 24, 1863,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *March* 31.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

At last accounts Yazoo Pass expedition was yet at Greenwood. Admiral Porter and Sherman are attempting to get into the Yazoo below Yazoo City. No news from them for several days. Farragut holds the river above Port Hudson.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *March* 25, 1863,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *March* 31.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Two rams attempted to run the blockade this morning. One succeeded, in damaged condition. They were intended to strengthen Farragut. Porter is returning. Did not succeed in reaching the Yazoo.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., March 27, 1863.

General H. W. HALLECK,
Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: All work, excepting repairing the *crevasse* in the canal levee, has been suspended for several days, the enemy having driven the dredgers entirely out. The canal may be useful in passing boats through at night, to be used below, but nothing further.

Admiral Porter has returned from his attempt to reach the Yazoo River below Yazoo City. The difficult navigation of the bayous from the Yazoo River through Black Bayou and Deer Creek caused so much time to be consumed that the enemy got wind of the movement in time to blockade the creek just where the boats would leave it.

As the enemy occupied the ground in considerable force where they could prevent the clearing out of these obstructions, the admiral was forced to desist from further efforts to proceed when within a few hundred yards of clear sailing to the Yazoo. Rolling Fork and Sunflower are navigable, steamers having come by this route to within sight of our gunboats while they were in Deer Creek.

The moment I heard that Admiral Porter had started on his return, I sent orders for the return of the Yazoo Pass expedition from Fort Greenwood. From information I have, other and greater difficulties would be found in navigating the Yazoo below Greenwood. Considerable preparation has been made to receive our forces coming by that route.

I get papers and deserters frequently from Vicksburg, but am not able to arrive at any definite conclusion as to their numbers. I do not anticipate any trouble, however, if a landing can be effected.

On the morning of the 25th, General Ellet sent two rams—the Switzerland and the Lancaster—to join Admiral Farragut. The last-named ram received a shot in the boiler long before reaching the front of the city. She floated down, however, receiving many more shots, but without materially further disabling her. She will be ready for service before to-morrow night, and is a fine vessel. The other boat received a shot, and immediately went to pieces. A large part, containing the machinery, tipped over, spilling it in the river. The wreck floated down and lodged at our lower pickets, bottom up. She was very rotten and worthless. The shot received would not have damaged a sound vessel seriously. This is what Admiral Farragut and army officers, who have examined the wreck, report to me.

Since no casualties occurred, it was fortunate that she is lost; for had she not been at this time, she might have been at some other time, when more valuable vessels might have been risked, relying on this boat for assistance. It is almost certain that had she made one *ram*

into another vessel she would have *closed up* like a *spy-glass*, encompassing all on board.

I have just learned from a contraband (reliable) that most of the forces from Vicksburg are now up the Yazoo, leaving not to exceed 10,000 in the city to-day. The batteries are the same, however, and would cause the same difficulty in landing that would be experienced against a heavy force; besides, the very cause of the absence of so many troops from Vicksburg, our gunboats and troops in and toward the Yazoo, prevents our taking advantage of the circumstances. I have no doubt of the truth of my information, because it is substantiated by Southern papers and by deserters, so far as the sending of a large force up the Yazoo.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, March 29, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: A dispatch to release boats and letter on the subject of the Yazoo expedition are both just received; the letter, also, enjoining me to keep you informed of the situation constantly by telegraph.

I have been very particular to write and telegraph often, even when there was nothing important to say, knowing that you would feel anxious to be constantly posted. The letters, I presume, reach, but the dispatches must in many instances have failed.

In regard to sending back boats from here, I gave and reiterated the order to General McClernand to do so before leaving Memphis. On my arrival, however, I found the river rising so rapidly that there was no telling what moment all hands might be driven to the boats. As soon as this danger was passed, so many boats were released that I could have moved but a small force at one time.

I wrote you fully on the subject of the Yazoo expedition a few days ago. If you do not receive at least one letter and two dispatches per week from me, general, be assured that some of them miscarry. In addition, I will telegraph as often as anything may occur of any importance.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *April* 2, 1863.
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *April* 7.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

In two weeks I expect to be able to collect all my forces and turn the enemy's left. With present high water the extent of ground upon which troops could land at Haynes' Bluff is so limited that the place is impregnable. I reconnoitered the place yesterday with Porter and Sherman.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

WASHINGTON, *April* 2, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *before Vicksburg:*

GENERAL: Your dispatch of March 17 and also your telegrams of March 24 and 25 were received yesterday.

While working upon the canal, the division of your forces into several eccentric operations may have been very proper for the purpose of reconnoitering the country; but it is very important that, when you strike any blow, you should have your troops sufficiently concentrated to make that blow effective. The division of your army into small expeditions destroys your strength, and, when in the presence of an enemy, is very dangerous.

What is most desired, and your attention is again called to this object, is that your forces and those of General Banks should be brought into co-operation as early as possible. If he cannot get up to co-operate with you on Vicksburg, cannot you get troops down to help him on Port Hudson, or, at least, can you not destroy Grand Gulf before it becomes too strong?

I know that you can judge of these matters there much better than I can here; but as the President, who seems to be rather impatient about matters on the Mississippi, has several times asked me these questions, I repeat them to you.

As the season when we can do very little on the Lower Mississippi is rapidly advancing, I hope you will push matters with all possible dispatch.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, April 4, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: By information from the south, by way of Corinth, I learn that the enemy in front of Rosecrans have been re-enforced from Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, and a few from Vicksburg. They have also collected a cavalry force of 20,000 men. All the bridges eastward from Savannah and north from Florence are being rapidly repaired. Chalmers is put in command of Northern Mississippi, and is collecting all the Partisan Rangers and loose and independent companies of cavalry that have been operating in this department. He is now occupying the line of the Tallahatchee. This portends preparation to attack Rosecrans, and to be able to follow up any success with rapidity, also to make a simultaneous raid into West Tennessee, both from Northern Mississippi and by crossing the Tennessee River. To counteract this, Admiral Porter has consented to send the Marine Brigade up the Tennessee River to co-operate with General Dodge at Corinth. I have also ordered an additional regiment of cavalry from Helena into West Tennessee. I inclose with this a letter from Major-General Hurlbut, giving a programme, which he wishes to carry out, and so much of it as to drive the enemy from the Tallahatchee and cutting the roads where they have been repaired, I think can be successfully executed. I will instruct him not to scatter his forces so as to risk losing them. I have placed one division of troops on Deer Creek, with communication back to the Mississippi River, just above Lake Washington. The object of

this move is to keep the enemy from drawing supplies from that rich region (and use them ourselves) and to attract the attention of the enemy in that direction. The navigation is practicable for our iron-clads and small steamers through to the Yazoo River, by the route lately tried by Admiral Porter, with the exception of a few hundred yards in Deer Creek, near Rolling Fork. This was obstructed by the enemy, and they are now guarding and fortifying there. This move will have a tendency to make them throw in an additional force there and move some of their guns. My force had as well be there as here until I want to use them. A reconnaissance to Haynes' Bluff demonstrates the impracticability of attacking that place during the present stage of water. The west bank of the river is densely wooded and is under water. The east bank only runs up to the bluff for a short distance below the raft, then diverges, leaving a bottom widening all the way down, in most part covered by water, and all of it next to the bluffs so covered. The hillsides are lined with rifle-pits, with embrasures here and there for field artillery. To storm this, but a small force could be used at the outset.

With the present batteries of the enemy, the canal across the point can be of but little use. There is a system of bayous running from Milliken's Bend, and also from near the river at this point, that are navigable for barges and small steamers passing around by Richmond to New Carthage. The dredges are now engaged cutting a canal from here into these bayous. I am having all the empty coal and other barges prepared for carrying troops and artillery, and have written to Colonel [Robert] Allen for some more, and also for six tugs to tow them. With these it would be easy to carry supplies to New Carthage, and for any point south of that.

My expectation is for a portion of the naval fleet to run the batteries of Vicksburg, whilst the army moves through by this new route. Once there, I will move either to Warrenton or Grand Gulf; most probably the latter. From either of these points there are good roads to Vicksburg, and from Grand Gulf there is a good road to Jackson and the Black River Bridge without crossing Black River.

This is the only move I now see as practicable, and hope it will meet your approval. I will keep my army together, and see to it that I am not cut off from my supplies, or beaten in any other way than in fair fight. The discipline and health of this army is now good, and I am satisfied the greatest confidence of success prevails.

I have directed General Webster to commence the reconstruction of the railroad between Grand Junction and Corinth. The labor will be performed by the engineer regiment and contrabands, thus saving additional expense. The streams will be crossed on piles. In this way the work should be done by the first of May.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

MEMPHIS, *April* 1, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *Young's Point:*

GENERAL: The present situation of the enemy's forces is submitted to you: Brig. Gen. S. A. [M.] Wood, commanding Northern Alabama, headquarters Florence; about 4,000 men, mostly mounted; two batteries artillery; pickets along line of Bear Creek. Colonel [C. R.] Barteau's brigade of cavalry, lately re-enforced; headquarters Verona; pickets to

Baldwyn. Next Ham and [W. C.] Falkner, each a regiment of cavalry, extending along line of Tallahatchee; pickets north of Holly Springs (Falkner, however, is now at Panola). Brigadier-General Chalmers, commanding Northern Mississippi, headquarters at Panola. [T. W.] Ham, McGirk [John McGuirk], [W. W.] Faulkner, [G. L.] Blythe, and [R. V.] Richardson, and all roving bands are ordered to report to Chalmers. He has one six-gun battery at Panola and one behind the Tallahatchee, near Abbeville. On east side of the river, Cox, Roddey, and a portion of Van Dorn's force are in Hardin, Wayne, and other counties. They are collecting stores, and have flats in Horse Creek and Duck River. There is every indication of a raid to be made soon on our lines of communication.

I absolutely need another regiment of cavalry at once for General Dodge; with that furnished me, a good regiment with good horses, I will move from Corinth, La Grange, and this place simultaneously, sweeping round from Corinth to Pontotoc, from La Grange straight down the ridge, with three regiments, throwing one in above Oxford, and cutting the Mississippi Central; the other by Okolona, and perhaps to Columbus, now lightly guarded, cutting that road, while Grierson, with his regiment, would proceed by forced marches to Selma or Meridian. Both Selma and Meridian have few troops. To break the Chunkey River or Pearl River Bridge would be my object. Their rolling stock is reduced and wearing out, as Barney informs me, and they limit trains to 10 miles an hour. They are drawing supplies from Noxubee and other counties of Mississippi, and conscripting relentlessly. As part of this movement, I will send from La Grange or Holly Springs a brigade of infantry and some artillery, and destroy the Tallahatchee Bridge, now being repaired, and break up the car-wheels and axles left there at the time of our withdrawal, which are of vast service to them. I shall also move a force to the left of Panola from this place, so as to keep Chalmers quiet or drive him back toward Grenada.

I dislike to make this movement without more cavalry for Dodge, as he is the most exposed of any point. I therefore urgently request another regiment to be sent me at once. If none can be spared from below, I will go on with what I have as soon as I receive your orders.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 2—Extract.]

They (the rebels) are still massing their forces upon Rosecrans, determined to overwhelm him. Their cavalry force is very large, fully 20,000, and they are making every effort to swell it to 25,000, and to crush him by relentless pursuit if the advantage is with them. They are drawing forces to re-enforce Johnston from Richmond, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, Vicksburg, although few have gone from Vicksburg. The force within supporting distance of Vicksburg he estimates at from 50,000 to 75,000 men.

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WASHINGTON, *April* 9, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *before Vicksburg:*

GENERAL: Yours of March 29 is just received.

Your explanation in regard to sending back steamers is satisfactory. I hope you will keep in mind the great importance of not unnecessarily

detaining them, on account of the great embarrassment it causes the Quartermaster's Department in supplying our Western armies.

In regard to your dispatches, it is very probable that many fail to reach here in time. It is exceedingly important that General Banks should be kept advised of everything that is done in your vicinity, and the only way he can get this information is through these headquarters.

You are too well advised of the anxiety of the Government for your success, and its disappointment at the delay, to render it necessary to urge upon you the importance of early action. I am confident that you will do everything possible to open the Mississippi River.

In my opinion this is the most important operation of the war, and nothing must be neglected to insure success.

General [Charles S.] Hamilton's resignation has been received, but has not yet been acted on, the President and Secretary being absent. No doubt he resigns to get a higher command. This game sometimes succeeds, but it also sometimes fails.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 11, 1863—9 p. m.
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *April* 16.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

The Yazoo expedition has reached the Mississippi. My forces in a few days will all be concentrated here. Grand Gulf is the point at which I expect to strike, and send an army corps to Port Hudson to co-operate with General Banks. Will reach the Mississippi at New Carthage, now in my possession, with wagon road and canal and bayous navigable for tugs and barges between here and there.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Milliken's Bend, La., April 12, 1863.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.:

COLONEL: Herewith I send you reports of Major-General Sherman, and the division and brigade commanders under him, of the late reconnaissance through Steele's and Black Bayous and Deer Creek, made by them in conjunction with a portion of Admiral Porter's fleet, commanded by himself in person.*

The object of the expedition was to find a practicable passage to the Yazoo River without passing the enemy's batteries at Haynes' Bluff, to liberate our fleet and troops then held above Greenwood, and, if found sufficiently practicable, to enable me to land most of my forces east of the Yazoo, at some point from which Haynes' Bluff and Vicksburg could be reached by high land. The accompanying reports show the impracticability of the route.

This expedition, however, was not without its results. It carried our troops into the heart of the granary from which the Vicksburg forces are now being fed. It caused great alarm among the enemy, and led them to move a number of their guns from batteries on the river. The citizens fled from their plantations, and burned several thousand bales

* See pp. 431–454.

of cotton. Some not burned was brought away by the gunboats. Much of their beef, bacon, and poultry was consumed by our troops and distributed among the negroes. A scow loaded with bacon for the enemy was destroyed, and probably 200,000 bushels of corn, in the crib, was burned up. Several hundred negroes also returned with the troops.

The recent expedition of General Steele to the neighborhood of Rolling Fork shows that the enemy are still holding that position. He also destroyed several hundred thousand bushels of corn, and brought off about 1,000 head of stock and a number of the laboring class.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Milliken's Bend, La., April 12, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: There is nothing in the way now of my throwing troops into Grand Gulf and destroying the works there, then sending them on to Port Hudson, to co-operate with General Banks in the reduction of that place, but the danger of overflowing the road from here to New Carthage when the water is let into the new canal connecting the river here with the bayous coming out at Carthage. One division of troops is now at Carthage and another on the way. By turning in the water to the canal, water communication can be opened between the two places in a very few days for barges and tugs. Of the former I have but fifteen as yet, and of the latter but three suitable for this navigation. To use this route, therefore, it is absolutely necessary to keep open the wagon road to take over artillery and to march the troops.

In about three nights from this time Admiral Porter will run the Vicksburg batteries with such of his fleet as he desires to take below, and I will send four steamers, the machinery protected from shot by hay-bales and sand-bags, to be used in transporting troops and in towing barges.

The wagon road, by filling up the lowest ground (this work must now be nearly completed), will be about 20 inches above the water in the swamps. The river, where it is to be let into the canal, is 4.09 feet above the land. This, however, is 15 miles, by the river, below where the dirt road starts out. Had I seen nothing of the effect of *crevasses* upon the back country, I should not doubt the effect would be to overflow the whole country through which we pass; but there has been a large *crevasse* just below where this canal leaves the river for a long time, through which the water has been pouring in great volume. I cannot see that this additional *crevasse* is going to have much other effect than to increase the breaks in the bayou levees, so as to make the discharge equal to the supply. I will have a map of this section made to send you by next mail, which will make this more intelligible.

The embarrassments I have had to contend against on account of extreme high water cannot be appreciated by any one not present to witness it. I think, however, that you will receive favorable reports of the condition and feeling of this army from every impartial judge and from all who have been sent from Washington to look after its welfare.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 17, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Seven gunboats and three transports ran the Vicksburg batteries last night. The crew of the steamer Henry Clay, excepting the pilot, deserted soon after getting under fire. The boat took fire and burned up. One other transport slightly damaged. One man killed and 3 wounded on the Benton. No further casualties reported. A number of barges were also sent.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

Forwarded from Memphis and sent by steamer to Cairo. The secessionists here report Vicksburg abandoned.

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Milliken's Bend, La., April 19, 1863.

General H. W. HALLECK,
Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I returned last night from New Carthage, at and near which place Admiral Porter's fleet is lying (six iron-clads and the ram General Price), together with two divisions of General McClernand's corps. The whole of his corps is between Richmond and New Carthage.

I had all the empty barges here prepared for the transportation of troops and artillery, and sent ten of them by the Vicksburg batteries with the fleet. While under the guns of the enemy's batteries they were cut loose, and I fear that some of them have been permitted to run past New Carthage undiscovered. They were relied upon to aid in the transportation of troops to take Grand Gulf.

The wagon road from here to within 2 miles of New Carthage is good for artillery. From that point on the bayou, levee is broken in a number of places, making cross-currents in the bayou; hence it is difficult to navigate with barges. I think, however, steamers will be able to run from where the wagon road ends to the river. By clearing out the bayous from timber, there will be good navigation from here to New Carthage for tugs and barges, also small stern-wheel steamers. This navigation can be kept good, I think, by using our dredges constantly, until there is 20 feet fall. On this subject, however, I have not taken the opinion of an engineer officer, nor have I formed it upon sufficient investigation to warrant me in speaking positively.

Our experiment of running the batteries at Vicksburg, I think, has demonstrated the entire practicability of doing so with but little risk. On this occasion our vessels went down even slower than the current, using their wheels principally for backing. Two of the steamers were drawn into the eddy, and ran over a part of the distance in front of Vicksburg three times. I shall send six more steamers by the batteries as soon as they can possibly be got ready.

I sent a dispatch to General Banks that I thought I could send an army corps to Bayou Sara to co-operate with him on Port Hudson by the 25th. This will now be impossible. There shall be no unnecessary delay, however, in my movements. I hope very soon to be able to report our possession of Grand Gulf, with a practicable and safe route to

furnish supplies to the troops. Once there, I do not feel a doubt of success in the entire cleaning out of the enemy from the banks of the river.

At least three of my army corps commanders take hold of the new policy of arming the negroes and using them against the enemy with a will. They, at least, are so much of soldiers as to feel themselves under obligation to carry out a policy which they would not inaugurate in the same good faith and with the same zeal as if it was of their own choosing. You may rely on me carrying out any policy ordered by proper authority to the best of my ability.*

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 21, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 24.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

I move my headquarters to New Carthage to-morrow. Every effort will be exerted to get speedy possession of Grand Gulf, and from that point to open the Mississippi. If I do not underestimate the enemy, my force is abundant, with a foothold once obtained, to do the work. Six transports will run the Vicksburg batteries to-night.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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YOUNG'S POINT, LA., *April* 23, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 25—1 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Six boats and a number of barges ran the Vicksburg batteries last night. All the boats got by more or less damaged. The Tigress sunk at 3 a. m., and is a total loss. Crew all safe. The Moderator was much damaged. I think all the barges went through safely. Col. C. B. Lagow, of my staff, was on the Tigress, in command of the fleet. Casualties, so far as reported, 2 men mortally wounded, and several (number not known) wounded, more or less severely. About five hundred shots were fired. I look upon this as a great success. At the Warrenton batteries there was heavy firing, but all the boats were seen to go past. What damage done there is not known.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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NEAR GRAND GULF, MISS., *April* 27, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 2—9 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Moving troops from Smith's plantation has been a tedious operation; more so than it should have been. I am now embarking troops for the attack on Grand Gulf. Expect to reduce it to-morrow.

U. S. GRANT.

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*See Halleck to Grant, March 31, Part III, p. 156.

NEAR GRAND GULF, MISS., *April* 29, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 4—9 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

The gunboats engaged Grand Gulf batteries from 8 a. m. until 1 p. m., and from dusk until 10 p. m. The army and transports are now below Grand Gulf. A landing will be effected on the east bank of the river to-morrow. I feel that the battle is now more than half won.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Grand Gulf, Miss., May 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: On April 29, Admiral Porter attacked the fortifications at this place with seven iron-clads, commencing at 8 a. m., and continued until 1.30 p. m., engaging them at very close quarters, many times not being more than 100 yards from the enemy's guns. During this time I had about 10,000 troops on board transports and in barges alongside, ready to land them and carry the place by storm the moment the batteries bearing on the river were silenced, so as to make the landing practicable. From the great elevation the enemy's batteries had, it proved entirely impracticable to silence them from the river, and when the gunboats were drawn off, I immediately decided upon landing my forces on the Louisiana shore and march them across the point to below the Gulf. At night the gunboats made another vigorous attack, and in the din the transports safely ran the blockade.

On the following day the whole of the force with me was transferred to Bruinsburg, the first point of land below Grand Gulf from which the interior can be reached, and the march immediately commenced for Port Gibson. General McClernand was in the advance, with the Thirteenth Army Corps.

At about 2 a. m., May 1, when some 4 miles from Port Gibson, he met the enemy, and some little skirmishing took place before daylight, but not to any great extent.

The Thirteenth Army Corps was followed by Logan's division, of McPherson's corps, which reached the scene of action as soon as the last of the Thirteenth was out of the road. The fighting continued all day, and until after dark, over the most broken country I ever saw. The whole country is a series of irregular ridges, divided by deep and impassable ravines, grown up with heavy timber, undergrowth, and cane. It was impossible to engage any considerable portion of our forces at any one time. The enemy were driven, however, from point to point, toward Port Gibson, until night closed in, under which, it was evident to me, they intended to retreat. The pursuit was continued after dark until the enemy was again met by Logan's division about 2 miles from Port Gibson. The nature of the country is such that further pursuit in the dark was not deemed prudent or advisable.

On the 2d, our troops moved into the town without finding any enemy except their wounded. The bridge across Bayou Pierre, about 2 miles from Port Gibson, on the Grand Gulf road, had been destroyed, and also the bridge immediately at Port Gibson, on the Vicksburg road.

The enemy retreated over both these routes, leaving a battery and several regiments of infantry at the former to prevent a reconstruction of the bridge.

One brigade under General Stevenson was detached to drive the enemy from this position, or occupy his attention, and a heavy detail set to work under Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson and Captain Tresilian, to reconstruct the bridge over the others. This work was accomplished; a bridge and roadway over 120 feet long made, and the whole of McPherson's two divisions marched over before night. This corps then marched 8 miles to North Fork of Bayou Pierre, rebuilt a bridge over that stream, and was on the march by 5.30 this a. m. Soon after crossing the bayou, our troops were opened on by the artillery of the enemy. It was soon demonstrated that this was only intended to cover the retreat of the main army. On arriving at Willow Springs, General McPherson was directed to hold the position from there on to the Big Black with one division, and General McClernand on his arrival to join him in this duty.

I immediately started for this place with one brigade of Logan's division and some 20 cavalrymen. The brigade of infantry was left about 7 miles from here, contrabands and prisoners taken having stated that the last of the retreating enemy had passed that point.

The woods between here and the crossing of the Big Black are evidently filled yet with detachments of the enemy and some of the artillery. I am in hopes many of them will be picked up by our forces.

Our loss will not exceed 150 killed and 500 wounded.* The enemy's loss is probably about the same. We have, however, some 500 of their men prisoners, and may yet pick up many more. Many stragglers, particularly from the Missouri troops, no doubt have fallen out and will never join their regiments again.

The move by Bruinsburg undoubtedly took the enemy much by surprise. General [John S.] Bowen's (the rebel commander) defense was a very bold one and well carried out. My force, however, was too heavy for his, and composed of well-disciplined and hardy men, who know no defeat, and are not willing to learn what it is.

This army is in the finest health and spirits. Since leaving Milliken's Bend they have marched as much by night as by day, through mud and rain, without tents or much other baggage, and on irregular rations, without a complaint, and with less straggling than I have ever before witnessed.

Where all have done so nobly it would be out of place to make invidious distinction.

The country will supply all the forage required for anything like an active campaign, and the necessary fresh beef. Other supplies will have to be drawn from Milliken's Bend. This is a long and precarious route, but I have every confidence in succeeding in doing it.

I shall not bring my troops into this place, but immediately follow the enemy, and, if all promises as favorable hereafter as it does now, not stop until Vicksburg is in our possession.

Admiral Porter left here this morning for the mouth of Red River. A letter from Admiral Farragut says that Banks has defeated Taylor and captured about 2,000 prisoners.

Colonel Grierson's raid from La Grange through Mississippi has been the most successful thing of the kind since the breaking out of the rebellion. He was 5 miles south of Pontotoc on April 19. The next

* But see revised statement, p. 582.

place he turned up was at Newton, about 30 miles east of Jackson. From there he has gone south, touching at Hazlehurst, Byhalia, and various other places. The Southern papers and Southern people regard it as one of the most daring exploits of the war. I am told the whole State is filled with men paroled by Grierson.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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GRAND GULF, MISS., *May* 3, 1863.
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 7.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

We landed at Bruinsburg April 30. Moved immediately on Port Gibson. Met the enemy (11,000 strong) 4 miles south of Port Gibson at 2 a. m. on the 1st, and engaged him all day, entirely routing him, with the loss of many killed and about 500 prisoners, besides the wounded. Our loss about 100 killed and 500 wounded. The enemy retreated toward Vicksburg, destroying the bridges over the two forks of Bayou Pierre. These were rebuilt, and pursuit continued until the present time. Besides the heavy artillery at this place, four field pieces were captured, some stores, and the enemy driven to destroy many more. The country is the most broken and difficult to operate in I ever saw.

Our victory has been most complete, and the enemy thoroughly demoralized.

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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GRAND GULF, MISS., *May* 6, 1863.
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *May* 8.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

I learn that Colonel Grierson, with his cavalry, has been heard of; first about ten days ago, in Northern Mississippi. He moved thence and struck the railroad 30 miles east of Jackson, at a point called Newton's Station. He then moved southward toward Enterprise, demanded the surrender of the place, and gave one hour's grace, during which General Loring arrived. He left at once, and moved toward Hazlehurst, on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad. At this point he tore up the track; thence to Byhalia, 10 miles farther south on the same road; thence eastward on the Natchez road, where he had a fight with Wirt Adams' cavalry. From this point he moved back, to the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, to Brookhaven, 10 miles south of Byhalia. When last heard from, he was 3 miles from Summit, 10 miles south of the last-named point, supposed to be making his way to Baton Rouge. He had spread excitement throughout the State, destroying railroads, trestle-works, bridges, burning locomotives and railway stock, taking prisoners, and destroying stores of all kinds. To use the expression of my informant, "Grierson has knocked the heart out of the State."

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS IN THE FIELD, *May* 6, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 12.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

Ferrying and transportation of rations to Grand Gulf is detaining us on the Big Black River. I will move as soon as three days' rations are received, and send wagons back to the Gulf for more to follow. Information from the other side leads me to believe the enemy are bringing forces from Tullahoma. Should not General Rosecrans at least make a demonstration of advancing?

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 32. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, *In Field, Hankinson's Ferry, Miss., May* 7, 1863.

Soldiers of the Army of the Tennessee! Once more I thank you for adding another victory to the long list of those previously won by your valor and endurance. The triumph gained over the enemy near Port Gibson, on the 1st instant, is one of the most important of the war. The capture of five cannon and more than 1,000 prisoners, the possession of Grand Gulf, and a firm foothold upon the highlands between the Big Black and Bayou Pierre, from whence we threaten the whole line of the enemy, are among the fruits of this brilliant achievement. The march from Milliken's Bend to a point opposite Grand Gulf was made in stormy weather, over the worst of roads; bridges and ferries had to be constructed; moving by night as well as by day, with labors incessant and extraordinary, privations have been endured by men and officers as have rarely been paralleled in any campaign. Not a murmur nor a complaint has been uttered. A few days' continuance of the same zeal and constancy will secure to this army the crowning victory over the rebellion. More difficulties and privations are before us. Let us endure them manfully. Other battles are to be fought. Let us fight them bravely. A grateful country will rejoice at our success, and history will record it with immortal honor.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

ROCKY SPRINGS, MISS., *May* 8, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 12—4.30 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

Our advance is 15 miles from Edwards Station, on Southern Railroad. All looks well. Port Hudson is undoubtedly evacuated, except by a small garrison and their heavy artillery.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

CAYUGA, MISS., *May* 11, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 18.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

My forces will be this evening as far advanced toward Jackson as Fourteen-Mile Creek—the left near Big Black River, and extending in a line nearly east and west—as they can get without bringing on a general engagement,

As I shall communicate with Grand Gulf no more, except it becomes necessary to send a train with heavy escort, you may not hear from me again for several days.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Indorsement.]

Above message was delayed in coming up the river to Memphis.
THOS. T. ECKERT.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 11, 1863—11 a. m.

Major-General GRANT, *via Memphis, Tenn.:*

If possible, the forces of yourself and of General Banks should be united between Vicksburg and Port Hudson, so as to attack these places separately with the combined forces. The same thing has been urged upon General Banks.

General Hooker recrossed to the north of the Rappahannock, but he inflicted a greater loss upon the enemy than he received himself.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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RAYMOND, MISS., *May* 14, 1863—12.10 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* —, 11 a. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

McPherson took this place on the 12th, after a brisk fight of more than two hours. Our loss, 51 killed and 180 wounded.* Enemy's loss, 75 killed, and buried by us; and 186 prisoners, besides wounded. McPherson is now at Clinton; Sherman on the direct Jackson road, and General McClernand bringing up the rear. I will attack the State capital to-day.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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JACKSON, MISS., *May* 15, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 20—9.30 a. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

This place fell into our hands yesterday, after a fight of about three hours. Joe Johnston was in command. The enemy retreated north, evidently with the design of joining the Vicksburg forces. I am concentrating my forces at Bolton, to cut them off, if possible. A dispatch from General Banks showed him to be off in Louisiana, not to return to Baton Rouge until May 10. I could not lose the time. I have taken many prisoners from Port Hudson, who state that but one brigade was left there. Port Hudson will be evacuated on the appearance of a force in the rear. I sent a special messenger to General Banks, giving him the substance of the information I had, and asking him to join me as soon as possible. This message was sent on the 10th.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

* But see revised statement, p. 705.

NEAR VICKSBURG, *May* 22, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 25.

General H. W. HALLECK,
Washington, D. C.:

Vicksburg is now completely invested. I have possession of Haynes' Bluff and the Yazoo; consequently have supplies. To-day an attempt was made to carry the city by assault, but was not entirely successful. We hold possession, however, of two of the enemy's forts, and have skirmishers close under all of them. Our loss was not severe. The nature of the ground about Vicksburg is such that it can only be taken by a siege. It is entirely safe to us in time, I would say one week, if the enemy do not send a large army upon my rear. With the railroad destroyed to beyond Pearl River, I do not see the hope that the enemy can entertain of such relief.

I learn that Jeff. Davis has promised that if the garrison can hold out for fifteen days he will send 100,000 men, if he has to evacuate Tennessee to do it.

What shall I do with the prisoners I have?

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., May 24, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: My troops are now disposed with the right (Sherman's corps) resting on the Mississippi, where the bluff strikes the water, we having the first crest and the upper of the enemy's water batteries. McClernand is on the left with his corps, his right having about one brigade north of the railroad, the rest south of it. One division occupies the roads leading south and southeast from the city. The position is as strong by nature as can possibly be conceived of, and is well fortified. The garrison the enemy have to defend it I have no means of knowing, but their force is variously estimated from 10,000 to 20,000.

I attempted to carry the place by storm on the 22d, but was unsuccessful. Our troops were not repulsed from any point, but simply failed to enter the works of the enemy. At several points they got up to the parapets of the enemy's forts, and planted their flags on the outer slope of the embankments, where they still have them. The assault was made simultaneously by the three army corps at 10 a. m. The loss on our side was not very heavy at first, but receiving repeated dispatches from General McClernand, saying that he was hard pressed on his right and left and calling for re-enforcements, I gave him all of McPherson's corps but four brigades, and caused Sherman to press the enemy on our right, which caused us to double our losses for the day. The whole loss for the day will probably reach 1,500 killed and wounded.

General McClernand's dispatches misled me as to the real state of facts, and caused much of this loss. He is entirely unfit for the position of corps commander, both on the march and on the battle-field. Looking after his corps gives me more labor and infinitely more uneasiness than all the remainder of my department.

The enemy are now undoubtedly in our grasp. The fall of Vicksburg and the capture of most of the garrison can only be a question of time. I hear a great deal of the enemy bringing a large force from the east to

effect a raising of the siege. They may attempt something of the kind, but I do not see how they can do it. The railroad is effectually destroyed at Jackson, so that it will take thirty days to repair it. This will leave a march of 50 miles over which the enemy will have to subsist an army, and bring their ordnance stores with teams. My position is so strong that I could hold out for several days against a vastly superior force. I do not see how the enemy could possibly maintain a long attack under these circumstances. I will keep a close watch on the enemy, however.

There is a force now at Calhoun Station, about 6 miles north of Canton, on the Mississippi Central Railroad. This is the force that escaped from Jackson, augmented by a few thousand men from the coast cities, intended to re-enforce the latter place before the attack, but failed to reach in time.

In the various battles from Port Gibson to Big Black River Bridge, we have taken nearly 6,000 prisoners, besides killed and wounded, and scattered a much larger number.

The enemy succeeded in returning to Vicksburg with only three pieces of artillery. The number captured by us was seventy-four guns, besides what was found at Haynes' Bluff.

From Jackson to this place I have had no opportunity for communicating with you. Since that, this army fought a heavy battle near Baker's Creek, on the 16th, beating the enemy badly, killing and capturing not less than 4,000 of the enemy, besides capturing most of his artillery. Loring's division was cut off from retreat, and dispersed in every direction.

On the 17th, the battle of Big Black River Bridge was fought, the enemy again losing about 2,000 prisoners, seventeen pieces of artillery, and many killed and wounded. The bridges and ferries were destroyed. The march from Edwards Station to Big Black River Bridge was made, bridges for crossing the army constructed, and much of it over in twenty-four hours.

On the 19th, the march to this place was made and the city invested.

When I crossed the Mississippi River, the means of ferriage was so limited, and time so important, that I started without teams and an average of but two days' rations in haversacks. Our supplies had to be hauled about 60 miles, from Milliken's Bend to opposite Grand Gulf, and from there to wherever the army marched. We picked up all the teams in the country and free Africans to drive them. Forage and meat were found in great abundance through the country, so that, although not over five days' rations were issued in twenty days, yet there was neither suffering nor complaint witnessed in the army.

As soon as reports can be got from corps commanders, I will send in a report, embracing the campaign from Milliken's Bend to the investment, if not the capture, of Vicksburg.

When I crossed the Mississippi River, it was my intention to detach an army corps, or the necessary force, to co-operate with General Banks to secure the reduction of Port Hudson and the union of the two armies, but I received a letter from General Banks, stating that he was in Louisiana, and would return to Baton Rouge by May 10. By the reduction of Port Hudson he could add only 12,000 to my force. I had certain information that General Joe Johnston was on his way to Jackson, and that re-enforcements were arriving there constantly from Port Hudson and the Southern cities. Under this state of facts, I could not afford to delay. Beating the enemy to near Port Gibson, I followed him to Hankinson's Ferry, on the Big Black River. This placed my forces 15 miles on their way from Grand Gulf to this place, Big Black

River Bridge, or Jackson, whichever I might turn my attention to. Altogether, I am satisfied that my course was right, and has given us with comparative ease what would have cost serious battles by delay.

This army is in the finest possible health and spirits.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *May* 25, 1863.
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 29.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

There is evidence of a force collecting near Big Black River, northeast of here about 30 miles. I have ordered all the force that can be spared from West Tennessee, and communicated with General Banks, asking him to come with all the force he can. I can manage the force in Vicksburg and an attacking force on the rear of 30,000, but may have more to contend against. Vicksburg will have to be reduced by regular siege. My effective force here is about 50,000, and can be increased 10,000 more from my own command.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, May 25, 1863.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.:

COLONEL: Eight men, with 200,000 percussion caps, were arrested whilst attempting to get through our lines into Vicksburg. The inclosed cipher was found upon them. Having no one with me who has the ingenuity to translate it, I send it to Washington, hoping that some one there may be able to make it out. Should the meaning of this cipher be made out, I request that a copy be sent to me.

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure.]

JACKSON, *May* 25, 1863.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

My X A F V. U S L X was V V U F L S J P by the B R C Y A [I] J 200,000 V E G T. S U A J. N E R P. Z I F M. It will be G F O E C S Z O [Q] D as they N T Y M N X. Bragg M J T P H I N Z G a Q R [K] C M K B S E. When it D Z G J X. I will Y O I G. A S. Q H Y. N I T W M do you Y T I A M the I I K M. V F V E Y. How and where is the J S Q M L G U G S F T V E. H B F Y is your R O E E L.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

[Translations.*]

JACKSON, *May* 25, 1863.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

My —— was captured by the picket. Two hundred thousand caps have been sent. It will be increased as they arrive. Bragg is sending

* The key words are "Manchester Bluff." The first translation is that of the War Department, in 1863; the second that of the Publication Office, War Records, in 1884.

a division. When it joins I will come to you. Which do you think the best route? How and where is the enemy operating? What is your force?

J. E. JOHNSTON.

JACKSON, *May* 25, 1863.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

My last note was *returned* by the *bearer*. Two hundred thousand caps have been sent. It will be *continued* as they arrive. Bragg is sending a division. When it *comes* I will *move* to you. Which do you think the best route? How and where is the enemy *encamped?* What is your force?

J. E. JOHNSTON.

NEAR VICKSBURG, *May* 29, 1863.
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 31.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

The enemy under Johnston is collecting in large force to attack me and rescue the garrison of Vicksburg. I have had my cavalry and six brigades of infantry out looking after them, and they confirm the report of a large force being collected at Canton. The number is reported to be 45,000, but may not be so large. If Banks does not come to my assistance, I must be re-enforced from elsewhere. I will avoid a surprise, and do the best I can with all the means at hand.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *June* 2, 1863.

Major-General GRANT,
Vicksburg, via Memphis:

Are you in communication with General Banks? Is he coming toward you or going farther off? Is there or has there been anything to hinder his coming directly to you by water from Alexandria?

A. LINCOLN.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 2, 1863—12.30 p. m.

Major-General GRANT, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

Yours of the 29th received. I will do all I can to assist you. I have sent dispatch after dispatch to General Banks to join you.* Why he does not I cannot understand. His separate operation upon Port Hudson is in direct violation of his instructions. If possible, send him this dispatch. My last dispatch from him was May 4.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 3, 1863.

Major-General HALLECK:

The approaches are gradually nearing the enemy's fortifications. Five days more should plant our batteries on their parapets. Johnston

* See Halleck's correspondence with Banks, Series I, Vols. XV and XXVI.

is still collecting troops at Canton and Jackson. Some are coming over the railroad, and all the country is joining his standard. The destruction of the enemy's artillery and ordnance stores was so complete that all these must be brought in from a distance. I sent a large force up between the Yazoo and Big Black Rivers. Forage, beef, and bacon were found in great abundance. The forage and bacon were destroyed by our troops and the stock brought to camp. I am now placing all my spare force on the narrowest part of land between the two rivers, about 45 miles northeast, with the cavalry watching all the crossings of Big Black River. We shell the town a little every day, and keep the enemy constantly on the alert. We but seldom lose a man now. The best of health and spirits prevail among the troops.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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[JUNE 3, 1863.—For correspondence between Halleck and Burnside, in reference to re-enforcements for Grant, see Series I, Vol. XXIII, Part II, p. 384.]

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NEAR VICKSBURG, *June* 8, 1863.
(Received June 10—9.10 p. m.)

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN, *President:*

I send by mail letter from General Banks, of June 4. I am in communication with him. He has Port Hudson closely invested.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 8, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Vicksburg is closely invested. I have a spare force of about 30,000 men with which to repel anything from the rear. This includes all I have ordered from West Tennessee. Johnston is concentrating a force at Canton, and now has a portion of it west of Big Black River. My troops have been north as far as Satartia, and on the ridge back of that point there is no force yet. I will make a waste of all the country I can between the two rivers. I am fortifying Haynes' Bluff, and will defend the line from here to that point at all hazards.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 8, 1863.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

It is reported that three divisions have left Bragg's army to join Johnston. Breckinridge is known to have arrived.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 11, 1863,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *June* 16.

H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

Re-enforcements other than from my own command are beginning to arrive. There is every indication that they may be required. The enemy occupy Yazoo City and Canton, with an entire division of cavalry on the ridge between the two rivers. I am fortifying Haynes' Bluff, and will have a garrison there of 13,000 men, besides the ability to throw an equal amount more there in case of an attack, and still keep up the investment of Vicksburg. Kirby Smith is showing signs of working to this side of the river, either to operate against General Banks or myself. He may find difficulty in crossing the river, but the great number of bayous and little lakes within a short distance of shore in this region afford such facilities for concealing boats that the means of crossing an army may still be left to the rebels; particularly may this be the case about Natchez. I now fear trouble on the opposite side of the river, between Lake Providence and Milliken's Bend.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 11, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *June* 14.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief:*

I have reliable information from the entire interior of the South. Johnston has been re-enforced by 3,000 troops from Mobile and other parts of Georgia; by [J. P.] McCown's and Breckinridge's divisions (9,000 men), and 4,000 of Forrest's cavalry, from Bragg's army; 9,000 men from Charleston, and 2,200 from Port Hudson. Orders were sent the very day General Banks invested Port Hudson, to evacuate it. Garrison there now 8,000. Lee's army has not been reduced; Bragg's force now 46,000 infantry and artillery and 15,000 cavalry. Everything not required for daily use has been removed to Atlanta, Ga. His army can fall back to Bristol or Chattanooga at a moment's notice, which places, it is thought, he can hold, and spare 25,000 troops. Mobile and Savannah are now almost entirely without garrisons, further than men to manage large guns. No troops are left in the interior to send to any place. All further re-enforcements will have to come from one of the great armies. There are about 32,000 men west of the Mississippi, exclusive of the troops in Texas. Orders were sent them one week ago by Johnston. The purport of the order not known. Herron has arrived here, and troops from Burnside looked for to-morrow.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, June 12, 1863—11.30 a. m.

Major-General GRANT, *Via Memphis, Tenn.:*

I hope you fully appreciate the importance of time in the reduction of Vicksburg. The large re-enforcements sent to you have opened Missouri and Kentucky to rebel raids. The siege should be pushed night and day with all possible dispatch.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 18, 1863,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *June* 23.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Everything progresses well here. Johnston's forces are at Yazoo City, Benton, Brownsville, and Clinton. I am fortifying Haynes' Bluff to make my position certain, but believe I could go out with force enough to drive the rebels from between the two rivers. Deserters come out daily. All report rations short. We scarcely ever lose a man now. Health and condition of troops most excellent.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 19, 1863,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *June* 23.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

I have found it necessary to relieve Major-General McClernand, particularly at this time, for his publication of a congratulatory address calculated to create dissension and ill-feeling in the army.* I should have relieved him long since for general unfitness for his position. Major-General Ord is appointed to his place, subject to the approval of the President.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General, Commanding.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 26, 1863.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Yesterday a mine was sprung under the enemy's most commanding fort, producing a crater sufficient to hold two regiments of infantry. Our men took immediate possession, and still hold it. The fight for it has been incessant, and thus far we have not been able to establish batteries in the breach. Expect to succeed. Joe Johnston has removed east of the Big Black. His movements are mysterious, and may be intended to cover a movement from his rear into East or West Tennessee, or upon Banks. I have General Sherman out near his front on the Big Black with a large force watching him. I will use every effort to learn any move Johnston may make, and send troops from here to counteract any change he may make, if I can.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

—

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 27, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

Joe Johnston has postponed his attack until he can receive 10,000 re-enforcements, now on their way from Bragg's army. They are expected early next week. I feel strong enough against this increase,

* See Dana to Stanton, June 19, p. 102; McClernand to Halleck and Stanton, June 27, pp. 165, 166.

and do not despair of having Vicksburg before they arrive. This latter, however, I may be disappointed in. I may have to abandon protection to the leased plantations from here to Lake Providence, to resist a threat from Kirby Smith's troops. The location of these leased plantations was most unfortunate, and against my judgment. I wanted them put north of the White River.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS.,
July 4, 1863—10.30 a. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

The enemy surrendered this morning. The only terms allowed is their parole as prisoners of war. This I regarded as of great advantage to us at this juncture. It saves probably several days in the captured town; leaves troops and transports ready for immediate service. General Sherman, with a large force, will face immediately on Johnston and drive him from the State. I will send troops to the relief of General Banks, and return the Ninth Corps to General Burnside.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 6, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Army of the Tennessee, and co-operating forces, from the date of my assuming the immediate command of the expedition against Vicksburg, Miss., to the reduction of that place:

From the moment of taking command in person, I became satisfied that Vicksburg could only be turned from the south side, and, in accordance with this conviction, I prosecuted the work on the canal, which had been located by Brigadier-General [Thomas] Williams across the peninsula on the Louisiana side of the river, with all vigor, hoping to make a channel which would pass transports for moving the army and carrying supplies to the new base of operations thus provided. The task was much more herculean than it at first appeared, and was made much more so by the almost continuous rains that fell during the whole of the time this work was prosecuted. The river, too, continued to rise and made a large expenditure of labor necessary to keep the water out of our camps and the canal.

Finally, on March 8, the rapid rise of the river, and the consequent great pressure upon the dam across the canal, near the upper end, at the main Mississippi levee, caused it to give way and let through the low lands back of our camps a torrent of water that separated the north and south shores of the peninsula as effectually as if the Mississippi flowed between them. This occurred when the enterprise promised success within a short time. There was some delay in trying to repair damages. It was found, however, that with the then stage of water some other plan would have to be adopted for getting below Vicksburg with transports.

Capt. F. E. Prime, chief engineer, and Col. G. G. Pride, who was acting on my staff, prospected a route through the bayous which run from near Milliken's Bend, on the north, and New Carthage, on the

south, through Roundaway Bayou, into the Tensas River. Their report of the practicability of this route determined me to commence work upon it. Having three dredge-boats at the time, the work of opening this route was executed with great rapidity. One small steamer and a number of barges were taken through the channel thus opened, but the river commencing about the middle of April to fall rapidly, and the roads becoming passable between Milliken's Bend and New Carthage, made it impracticable and unnecessary to open water communication between these points.

Soon after commencing the first canal spoken of, I caused a channel to be cut from the Mississippi River into Lake Providence; also one from the Mississippi River into Coldwater, by way of Yazoo Pass.

I had no great expectations of important results from the former of these, but having more troops than could be employed to advantage at Young's Point, and knowing that Lake Providence was connected by Bayou Baxter with Bayou Macon, a navigable stream, through which transports might pass into the Mississippi below, through Tensas, Washita, and Red Rivers, I thought it possible that a route might be opened in that direction which would enable me to co-operate with General Banks on Port Hudson.

By the Yazoo Pass route I only expected at first to get into the Yazoo by way of Coldwater and Tallahatchee with some lighter gunboats and a few troops, and destroy the enemy's transports in that stream and some gunboats which I knew he was building. The navigation, however, proved so much better than had been expected that I thought for a time of the possibility of making this the route for obtaining a foothold on high land above Haynes' Bluff, Miss., and small-class steamers were accordingly ordered for transporting an army that way.

Maj. Gen. J. B. McPherson, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, was directed to hold his corps in readiness to move by this route, and one division each from the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Corps were collected near the entrance of the pass, to be added to his command. It soon became evident that a sufficient number of boats of the right class could not be obtained for the movement of more than one division.

While my forces were opening one end of the pass, the enemy was diligently closing the other end, and in this way succeeding in gaining time to strongly fortify Greenwood, below the junction of the Tallahatchee and Yalabusha. The advance of the expedition, consisting of one division of McClernand's corps, from Helena, commanded by Brig. Gen. L. F. Ross, and the Twelfth and Seventeenth Regiments Missouri Infantry, from Sherman's corps, as sharpshooters on the gunboats, succeeded in reaching Coldwater March 2, after much difficulty and the partial disabling of most of the boats. From the entrance into Coldwater to Fort Pemberton, at Greenwood, Miss., no great difficulty of navigation was experienced, nor any interruption of magnitude from the enemy. Fort Pemberton extends from the Tallahatchee to the Yazoo at Greenwood. Here the two rivers come within a few hundred yards of each other. The land around the fort is low, and at the time of the attack was entirely overflowed. Owing to this fact, no movement could be made by the army to reduce it, but all depended upon the ability of the gunboats to silence the guns of the enemy and enable the transports to run down and land troops immediately on the fort itself.

After an engagement of several hours, the gunboats drew off, being unable to silence the batteries. Brig. Gen. I. F. Quinby, commanding a division of McPherson's corps, met the expedition under Ross with

his division on its return near Fort Pemberton, on March 21, and, being the senior, assumed command of the entire expedition, and returned to the position Ross had occupied.

On March 23, I sent orders for the withdrawal of all the forces operating in that direction, for the purpose of concentrating my army at Milliken's Bend.

On March 14, Admiral D. D. Porter, commanding the Mississippi Squadron, informed me that he had made a reconnaissance up Steele's Bayou, and partially through Black Bayou toward Deer Creek, and, so far as explored, these water courses were reported navigable for the smaller iron-clads.

Information, given mostly, I believe, by the negroes of the country, was to the effect that Deer Creek could be navigated to Rolling Fork, and that from there through the Sunflower to the Yazoo River there was no question about the navigation.

On the following morning I accompanied Admiral Porter in the ram Price, several iron clads preceding us, up through Steele's Bayou to near Black Bayou.

At this time our forces were at a dead lock at Greenwood, and I looked upon the success of this enterprise as of vast importance. It would, if successful, leave Greenwood between two forces of ours, and would necessarily cause the immediate abandonment of that stronghold. About thirty steamers of the enemy would have been destroyed or fallen into our hands.

Seeing that the great obstacles to navigation, so far as I had gone, was from overhanging trees, I left Admiral Porter near Black Bayou, and pushed back to Young's Point, for the purpose of sending forward a pioneer corps to remove these difficulties. Soon after my return to Young's Point, Admiral Porter sent back to me for a co-operating military force. Sherman was promptly sent with one division of his corps. The number of steamers suitable for the navigation of these bayous being limited, most of the force was sent up the Mississippi River to Eagle Bend, a point where the river runs within 1 mile of Steele's Bayou, thus saving an important part of this difficult navigation.

The expedition failed, probably more from want of knowledge as to what would be required to open this route than from any impracticability in the navigation of the streams and bayous through which it was proposed to pass. Want of this knowledge led the expedition on until difficulties were encountered, and then it would become necessary to send back to Young's Point for the means of removing them. This gave the enemy time to move forces to effectually checkmate further progress, and the expedition was withdrawn when within a few hundred yards of free and open navigation to the Yazoo.

All this may have been providential in driving us ultimately to a line of operations which has proven eminently successful.

For further particulars of the Steele's Bayou expedition, see report of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, forwarded on April 12.

As soon as I decided to open water communication from a point on the Mississippi, near Milliken's Bend, to New Carthage, I determined to occupy the latter place, it being the first point below Vicksburg that could be reached by land at the stage of water then existing, and the occupancy of which, while it secured to us a point on the Mississippi River, would also protect the main line of communication by water. Accordingly, the Thirteenth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. J. A. McClernand commanding, was directed to take up its line of march on March 29 for New Carthage, the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps to fol-

low, moving no faster than supplies and ammunition could be transported to them.

The roads, though level, were intolerably bad, and the movement was therefore necessarily slow. Arriving at Smith's plantation, 2 miles from New Carthage, it was found that the levee of Bayou Vidal was broken in several places, thus leaving New Carthage an island.

All the boats that could be were collected from the different bayous in the vicinity and others were built, but the transportation of an army in this way was found exceedingly tedious. Another route had to be found. This was done by making a further march around Vidal to Perkins' plantation, a distance of 12 miles more, making the whole distance to be marched from Milliken's Bend to reach water communication on the opposite side of the point 35 miles. Over this distance, with bad roads to contend against, supplies of ordnance stores and provisions had to be hauled by wagons with which to commence the campaign on the opposite side of the river. At the same time that I ordered the occupation of New Carthage, preparations were made for running transports by the Vicksburg batteries with Admiral Porter's gunboat fleet.

On the night of April 16, Admiral Porter's fleet and the transports Silver Wave, Forest Queen, and Henry Clay ran the Vicksburg batteries. The boilers of the transports were protected as well as possible with hay and cotton. More or less commissary stores were put on each. All three of these boats were struck more or less frequently while passing the enemy's batteries, and the Henry Clay, by the explosion of a shell or by some other means, was set on fire and entirely consumed. The other two boats were somewhat injured, but not seriously disabled. No one on board of either was hurt.

As these boats succeeded in getting by so well, I ordered six more to be prepared in like manner for running the batteries. These latter, viz, Tigress, Anglo-Saxon, Cheeseman, Empire City, Horizon, and Moderator, left Milliken's Bend on the night of April 22, and five of them got by, but in a somewhat damaged condition. The Tigress received a shot in her hull below the water line, and sunk on the Louisiana shore soon after passing the last of the batteries. The crews of these steamers, with the exception of that of the Forest Queen, Capt. C. D. Conway, and the Silver Wave, Captain McMillan, were composed of volunteers from the army. Upon the call for volunteers for this dangerous enterprise, officers and men presented themselves by hundreds, anxious to undertake the trip. The names of those whose services were accepted will be given in a separate report.

It is a striking feature, so far as my observation goes, of the present volunteer army of the United States, that there is nothing which men are called upon to do, mechanical or professional, that accomplished adepts cannot be found for the duty required in almost every regiment.

The transports injured in running the blockade were repaired by order of Admiral Porter, who was supplied with the material for such repairs as they required, and who was and is ever ready to afford all the assistance in his power for the furtherance of the success of our arms. In a very short time five of the transports were in running order, and the remainder were in a condition to be used as barges in the moving of troops. Twelve barges loaded with forage and rations were sent in tow of the last six boats that run the blockade. One-half of them got through in a condition to be used.

Owing to the limited number of transports below Vicksburg, it was found necessary to extend our line of land travel to Hard Times, La.,

which, by the circuitous route it was necessary to take, increased the distance to about 70 miles from Milliken's Bend, our starting point.

The Thirteenth Army Corps being all through to the Mississippi, and the Seventeenth Army Corps well on the way, so much of the Thirteenth as could be got on board of the transports and barges were put aboard, and moved to the front of Grand Gulf on April 29. The plan here was that the Navy should silence the guns of the enemy, and the troops landed under the cover of the gunboats, and carry the place by storm.

At 8 a. m. the Navy made the attack, and kept it up for more than five hours in the most gallant manner. From a tug out in the stream I witnessed the whole engagement. Many times it seemed to me the gunboats were within pistol-shot of the enemy's batteries. It soon became evident that the guns of the enemy were too elevated and their fortifications too strong to be taken from the water side. The whole range of hills on that side were known to be lined with rifle-pits; besides, the field artillery could be moved to any position where it could be made useful in case of an attempt at landing. This determined me again to run the enemy's batteries, turn his position by effecting a landing at Rodney, or at Bruinsburg, between Grand Gulf and Rodney. Accordingly, orders were immediately given for the troops to debark at Hard Times, La., and march across to the point immediately below Grand Gulf.

At dark the gunboats again engaged the batteries, and all the transports run by, receiving but two or three shots in the passage, and these without injury. I had some time previously ordered a reconnaissance to a point opposite Bruinsburg, to ascertain, if possible, from persons in the neighborhood the character of the road leading to the highlands back of Bruinsburg. During the night I learned from a negro man that there was a good road from Bruinsburg to Port Gibson, which determined me to land there.

The work of ferrying the troops to Bruinsburg was commenced at daylight in the morning, the gunboats as well as transports being used for the purpose.

As soon as the Thirteenth Army Corps was landed, and could draw three days' rations to put in haversacks (no wagons were allowed to cross until the troops were all over), they were started on the road to Port Gibson. I deemed it a matter of vast importance that the highlands should be reached without resistance. The Seventeenth Corps followed as rapidly as it could be put across the river.

About 2 o'clock, May 1, the advance of the enemy was met 8 miles from Bruinsburg, on the road to Port Gibson. He was forced to fall back, but, as it was dark, he was not pursued far until daylight.

Early on the morning of the 1st, I went out, accompanied by members of my staff, and found McClernand with his corps engaging the enemy about 4 miles from Port Gibson. At this point the roads branched in exactly opposite directions, both, however, leading to Port Gibson. The enemy had taken position on both branches, thus dividing, as he fell back, the pursuing forces. The nature of the ground in that part of the country is such that a very small force could retard the progress of a much larger one for many hours. The roads usually run on narrow, elevated ridges, with deep and impenetrable ravines on either side. On the right were the divisions of Hovey, Carr, and [A. J.] Smith, and on the left the division of Osterhaus, of McClernand's corps. The three former succeeded in driving the enemy from position to position back toward Port Gibson steadily all day.

Osterhaus did not, however, move the enemy from the position occupied by him on our left until Logan's division, of McPherson's corps, arrived. McClernand, who was with the right in person, sent repeated messages to me before the arrival of Logan to send Logan's and Quinby's divisions, of McPherson's corps, to him.

I had been on that as well as all other parts of the field, and could not see how they could be used there to advantage. However, as soon as the advance of McPherson's corps (Logan's division) arrived, I sent one brigade to McClernand on the right, and sent one brigade, Brig. Gen. J. E. Smith commanding, to the left, to the assistance of Osterhaus.

By the judicious disposition made of this brigade, under the immediate supervision of McPherson and Logan, a position was soon obtained, giving us an advantage which soon drove the enemy from that part of the field, to make no further stand south of Bayou Pierre.

The enemy was here repulsed with a heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. The repulse of the enemy on our left took place late in the afternoon. He was pursued toward Port Gibson, but night closing in, and the enemy making the appearance of another stand, the troops slept upon their arms until daylight.

In the morning it was found that the enemy had retreated across Bayou Pierre, on the Grand Gulf road, and a brigade of Logan's division was sent to divert his attention, while a floating bridge was being built across Bayou Pierre immediately at Port Gibson. This bridge was completed, 8 miles marched by McPherson's corps to the North Fork of Bayou Pierre, that stream bridged, and the advance of this corps commenced passing over it at 5 o'clock the following morning.

On the 3d, the enemy was pursued to Hankinson's Ferry, with slight skirmishing all day, during which we took quite a number of prisoners, mostly stragglers, from the enemy.

Finding that Grand Gulf had been evacuated, and that the advance of my forces was already 15 miles out from there, and on the road, too, they would have to take to reach either Vicksburg, Jackson, or any intermediate point on the railroad between the two places, I determined not to march them back; but taking a small escort of cavalry, some 15 or 20 men, I went to the Gulf myself, and made the necessary arrangements for changing my base of supplies from Bruinsburg to Grand Gulf.

In moving from Milliken's Bend, the Fifteenth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman commanding, was left to be the last to start. To prevent heavy re-enforcements going from Vicksburg to the assistance of the Grand Gulf forces, I directed Sherman to make a demonstration on Haynes' Bluff, and to make all the show possible. From information since received from prisoners captured, this ruse succeeded admirably.

It had been my intention, up to the time of crossing the Mississippi River, to collect all my forces at Grand Gulf, and get on hand a good supply of provisions and ordnance stores before moving, and in the mean time to detach an army corps to co-operate with General Banks on Port Hudson, and effect a junction of our forces.

About this time I received a letter from General Banks, giving his position west of the Mississippi River, and stating that he could return to Baton Rouge by May 10; that by the reduction of Port Hudson he could join me with 12,000 men.

I learned about the same time that troops were expected at Jackson from the Southern cities, with General Beauregard in command. To

delay until May 10, and for the reduction of Port Hudson after that, the accession of 12,000 men would not leave me relatively so strong as to move promptly with what I had. Information received from day to day of the movements of the enemy also impelled me to the course pursued.

While lying at Hankinson's Ferry waiting for wagons, supplies, and Sherman's corps, which had come forward in the mean time, demonstrations were made, successfully, I believe, to induce the enemy to think that route and the one by Hall's Ferry, above, were objects of much solicitude to me. Reconnaissances were made to the west side of the Big Black to within 6 miles of Warrenton.

On May 7, an advance was ordered, McPherson's corps keeping the road nearest Big Black River, to Rocky Springs, McClernand's corps keeping the ridge road from Willow Springs, and Sherman following with his corps divided on the two roads. All the ferries were closely guarded until our troops were well advanced. It was my intention here to hug the Big Black River as closely as possible with McClernand's and Sherman's corps, and get them to the railroad at some place between Edwards Station and Bolton. McPherson was to move by way of Utica to Raymond, and from there into Jackson, destroying the railroad, telegraph, public stores, &c., and push west to rejoin the main force. Orders were given to McPherson accordingly. Sherman was moved forward on the Edwards Station road, crossing Fourteen-Mile Creek at Dillon's plantation; McClernand was moved across the same creek, farther west, sending one division of his corps by the Baldwin's Ferry road as far as the river. At the crossings of Fourteen-Mile Creek both McClernand and Sherman had considerable skirmishing with the enemy to get possession of the crossings.

McPherson met the enemy near Raymond, two brigades strong, under Gregg and Walker, on the same day; engaged him, and, after several hours' hard fighting, drove him, with heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners. Many threw down their arms and deserted. My position at this time was with Sherman's corps, some 7 miles west of Raymond, and about the center of the army.

On the night of May 12, after orders had been given for the corps of McClernand and Sherman to march toward the railroad by parallel roads, the former in the direction of Edwards Station and the latter to a point on the railroad between Edwards Station and Bolton, the order was changed, and both were directed to move toward Raymond. This was in consequence of the enemy having retreated toward Jackson after his defeat at Raymond, and of information that re-enforcements were daily arriving at Jackson, and that General Joe Johnston was hourly expected there to take command in person. I therefore determined to make sure of that place and leave no enemy in my rear.

McPherson moved on the 13th to Clinton, destroyed the railroad and telegraph, and captured some important dispatches from General Pemberton to General Gregg, who had commanded the day before in the battle of Raymond. Sherman moved to a parallel position on the Mississippi Springs and Jackson road. McClernand moved to a point near Raymond.

The next day Sherman and McPherson moved their entire force toward Jackson. The rain fell in torrents all the night before and continued until about noon of that day, making the roads at first slippery and then miry. Notwithstanding, the troops marched in excellent order, without straggling and in the best of spirits, about 14 miles, and engaged the enemy about 12 m. near Jackson. McClernand occupied Clinton with one division, Mississippi Springs with another, Raymond

with a third, and had his fourth division and Blair's division, of Sherman's corps, with a wagon train, still in the rear near New Auburn, while McArthur, with one brigade of his division, of McPherson's corps, was moving toward Raymond on the Utica road. It was not the intention to move these forces any nearer Jackson, but to have them in a position where they would be in supporting distance if the resistance at Jackson should prove more obstinate than there seemed reason to expect.

The enemy marched out the bulk of his force on the Clinton road, and engaged McPherson's corps about 2½ miles from the city. A small force of artillery and infantry took a strong position in front of Sherman, about the same distance out. By a determined advance of our skirmishers, these latter were soon driven within their rifle-pits, just outside the city. It was impossible to ascertain the strength of the enemy at this part of the line in time to justify an immediate assault; consequently McPherson's two divisions engaged the main bulk of the rebel garrison at Jackson without further aid than the moral support given them by the knowledge the enemy had of a force to the south side of the city and the few infantry and artillery of the enemy posted there to impede Sherman's progress. Sherman soon discovered the weakness of the enemy by sending a reconnoitering party to his right, which also had the effect of causing the enemy to retreat from this part of his line. A few of the artillerists, however, remained in their places, firing upon Sherman's troops until the last moment, evidently instructed to do so, with the expectation of being captured in the end.

On entering the city it was found that the main body of the enemy had retreated north after a heavy engagement of more than two hours with McPherson's corps, in which he [the enemy] was badly beaten. He was pursued until near night, but without further damage to him.

During that evening I learned that General Johnston, as soon as he had satisfied himself that Jackson was to be attacked, had ordered Pemberton peremptorily to march out from the direction of Vicksburg and attack our rear. Availing myself of this information, I immediately issued orders to McClernand, and Blair of Sherman's corps, to face their troops toward Bolton, with a view to reaching Edwards Station, marching on different roads converging near Bolton. These troops were admirably located for such a move. McPherson was ordered to retrace his steps early in the morning of the 15th on the Clinton road. Sherman was left in Jackson to destroy the railroads, bridges, factories, workshops, arsenals, and everything valuable for the support of the enemy. This was accomplished in the most effectual manner.

On the afternoon of the 15th, I proceeded as far west as Clinton, through which place McPherson's corps passed to within supporting distance of Hovey's division, of McClernand's corps, which had moved that day on the same road to within 1½ miles of Bolton.

On reaching Clinton, at 4.45 p. m., I ordered McClernand to move his command early the next morning toward Edwards Depot, marching so as to feel the enemy if he encountered him, but not to bring on a general engagement unless he was confident he was able to defeat him; and also to order Blair to move with him.

About 5 o'clock on the morning of the 16th, two men, employés on the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad, who had passed through Pemberton's army the night before, were brought to my headquarters. They stated Pemberton's force to consist of about eighty regiments, with ten batteries of artillery, and that the whole force was estimated by the

enemy at about 25,000 men. From them I also learned the positions being taken up by the enemy, and his intention of attacking our rear. I had determined to leave one division of Sherman's corps one day longer in Jackson, but this information determined me to bring his entire command up at once, and I accordingly dispatched him at 5.30 a. m. to move with all possible speed until he came up with the main force near Bolton. My dispatch reached him at 7.10 a. m., and his advance division was in motion in one hour from that time. A dispatch was sent to Blair at the same time to push forward his division in the direction of Edwards Station with all possible dispatch. McClernand was directed to establish communication between Blair and Osterhaus, of his corps, and keep it up, moving the former to the support of the latter. McPherson was ordered forward at 5.45 a. m. to join McClernand, and Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, of my staff, was sent forward to communicate the information received, and with verbal instructions to McClernand as to the disposition of his forces.

At an early hour I left for the advance, and, on arriving at the crossing of the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad with the road from Raymond to Bolton, I found McPherson's advance and his pioneer corps engaged in rebuilding a bridge on the former road that had been destroyed by the cavalry of Osterhaus' division that had gone into Bolton the night before. The train of Hovey's division was at a halt, and blocked up the road from farther advance on the Vicksburg road. I ordered all quartermasters and wagon-masters to draw their teams to one side and make room for the passage of troops. McPherson was brought up by this road.

Passing to the front, I found Hovey's division, of the Thirteenth Army Corps, at a halt, with our skirmishers and the enemy's pickets near each other. Hovey was bringing his troops into line ready for battle, and could have brought on an engagement at any moment. The enemy had taken up a very strong position on a narrow ridge, his left resting on a height where the road makes a sharp turn to the left, approaching Vicksburg. The top of the ridge and the precipitous hillside to the left of the road are covered by a dense forest and undergrowth. To the right of the road the timber extends a short distance down the hill, and then opens into cultivated fields on a gentle slope and into a valley, extending for a considerable distance. On the road and into the wooded ravine and hillside Hovey's division was disposed for the attack. McPherson's two divisions—all of his corps with him on the march from Milliken's Bend, until Ransom's brigade arrived that day after the battle—were thrown to the right of the road (properly speaking, the enemy's rear), but I would not permit an attack to be commenced by our troops until I could hear from McClernand, who was advancing with four divisions, two of them on a road intersecting the Jackson road about 1 mile from where the troops above described were placed, and about the center of the enemy's line; the other two divisions on a road still north, and nearly the same distance off.

I soon heard from McClernand through members of his staff and my own, whom I had sent to him early in the morning, and found that by the nearest practicable route of communication he was 2½ miles distant. I sent several successive messages to him to push forward with all rapidity. There had been continuous firing between Hovey's skirmishers and the rebel advance, which by 11 o'clock grew into a battle. For some time this division bore the brunt of the conflict; but finding the enemy too strong for them, at the instance of Hovey, I directed first one and then a second brigade from Crocker's division to re-enforce him.

All this time Logan's division was working upon the enemy's left and rear, and weakened his front attack most wonderfully. The troops here opposing us evidently far outnumbered ours. Expecting McClernand momentarily with four divisions, including Blair's, I never felt a doubt of the result. He did not arrive, however, until the enemy had been driven from the field, after a terrible contest of hours, with a heavy loss of killed, wounded, and prisoners, and a number of pieces of artillery.

It was found afterward that the Vicksburg road, after following the ridge in a southerly direction for about 1 mile, and to where it intersected one of the Raymond roads, turns almost to the west, down the hill and across the valley in which Logan was operating on the rear of the enemy. One brigade of Logan's division had, unconscious of this important fact, penetrated nearly to this road, and compelled the enemy to retreat to prevent capture. As it was, much of his artillery and Loring's division of his army were cut off, besides the prisoners captured.

On the call of Hovey for more re-enforcements just before the rout of the enemy commenced, I ordered McPherson to move what troops he could by a left flank around to the enemy's front. Logan rode up at this time, and told me that if Hovey could make another dash at the enemy, he could come up from where he then was and capture the greater part of their force. I immediately rode forward and found the troops that had been so gallantly engaged for so many hours withdrawn from their advanced position, and were filling their cartridge-boxes. I directed them to use all dispatch, and push forward as soon as possible, explaining to them the position of Logan's division. Proceeding still farther forward, expecting every moment to see the enemy, and reaching what had been his line, I found he was retreating.

Arriving at the Raymond road, I saw to my left and on the next ridge a column of troops, which proved to be Carr's division, and McClernand with it in person; and to the left of Carr, Osterhaus' division soon afterward appeared, with his skirmishers well in advance. I sent word to Osterhaus that the enemy was in full retreat, and to push up with all haste. The situation was soon explained, after which I ordered Carr to pursue with all speed to Black River, and across it if he could, and to Osterhaus to follow. Some of McPherson's troops had already got into the road in advance; but having marched and engaged the enemy all day, they were fatigued and gave the road to Carr, who continued the pursuit until after dark, capturing a train of cars loaded with commissary and ordnance stores and other property.

The delay in the advance of the troops immediately with McClernand was caused, no doubt, by the enemy presenting a front of artillery and infantry where it was impossible, from the nature of the ground and the density of the forest, to discover his numbers. As it was, the battle of Champion's Hill, or Baker's Creek, was fought mainly by Hovey's division, of McClernand's corps, and Logan's and Quinby's divisions (the latter commanded by Brig. Gen. M. M. Crocker), of McPherson's corps.

Ransom's brigade, of McPherson's corps, came on to the field where the main battle had been fought immediately after the enemy had begun his retreat.

Word was sent to Sherman, at Bolton, of the result of the day's engagement, with directions to turn his corps toward Bridgeport, and to Blair to join him at this latter place.

At daylight on the 17th, the pursuit was renewed, with McClernand's corps in the advance. The enemy was found strongly posted on both

sides of the Black River. At this point on Black River the bluffs extend to the water's edge on the west bank. On the east side is an open, cultivated bottom of nearly 1 mile in width, surrounded by a bayou of stagnant water, from 2 to 3 feet in depth and from 10 to 20 feet in width, from the river above the railroad to the river below. Following the inside line of this bayou, the enemy had constructed rifle-pits, with the bayou to serve as a ditch on the outside and immediately in front of them. Carr's division occupied the right in investing this place, and Lawler's brigade the right of his division. After a few hours' skirmishing, Lawler discovered that by moving a portion of his brigade under cover of the river bank he could get a position from which that place could be successfully assaulted, and ordered a charge accordingly. Notwithstanding the level ground over which a portion of his troops had to pass without cover, and the great obstacle of the ditch in front of the enemy's works, the charge was gallantly and successfully made, and in a few minutes the entire garrison, with seventeen pieces of artillery, were the trophies of this brilliant and daring movement. The enemy on the west bank of the river immediately set fire to the railroad bridge and retreated, thus cutting off all chance of escape for any portion of his forces remaining on the east bank.

Sherman by this time had reached Bridgeport, on Black River, above. The only pontoon train with the expedition was with him. By the morning of the 18th, he had crossed the river, and was ready to march on Walnut Hills. McClernand and McPherson built floating bridges during the night, and had them ready for crossing their commands by 8 a. m. of the 18th.

The march was commenced by Sherman at an early hour by the Bridgeport and Vicksburg road, turning to the right when within 3¾ miles of Vicksburg, to get possession of Walnut Hills and the Yazoo River. This was successfully accomplished before the night of the 18th. McPherson crossed Big Black River above the Jackson road and came into the same road with Sherman, but to his rear. He arrived after night-fall with his advance to where Sherman turned to the right. McClernand moved by the Jackson and Vicksburg road to Mount Albans, and there turned to the left, to get into Baldwin's Ferry road. By this disposition the three army corps covered all the ground their strength would admit of, and by the morning of the 19th the investment of Vicksburg was made as complete as could be by the forces at my command.

During the day there was continuous skirmishing, and I was not without hope of carrying the enemy's works. Relying upon the demoralization of the enemy, in consequence of repeated defeats outside of Vicksburg, I ordered a general assault at 2 p. m. on this day. The Fifteenth Army Corps, from having arrived in front of the enemy's works in time on the 18th to get a good position, were enabled to make a vigorous assault. The Thirteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps succeeded no further than to gain advanced positions covered from the fire of the enemy.

The 20th and 21st were spent in perfecting communications with our supplies. Most of the troops had been marching and fighting battles for twenty days, on an average of about five days' rations drawn from the commissary department. Though they had not suffered from short rations up to this time, the want of bread to accompany the other rations was beginning to be much felt.

On the 21st, my arrangements for drawing supplies of every description being complete, I determined to make another effort to carry Vicks-

burg by assault. There were many reasons to determine me to adopt this course. I believed an assault from the position gained by this time could be made successfully. It was known that Johnston was at Canton with the force taken by him from Jackson, re-enforced by other troops from the east, and that more were daily reaching him. With the force I then had, a short time must have enabled him to attack me in the rear, and possibly succeeded in raising the siege.

Possession of Vicksburg at that time would have enabled me to have turned upon Johnston and driven him from the State, and possessed myself of all the railroads and practical military highways, thus effectually securing to ourselves all territory west of the Tombigbee, and this before the season was too far advanced for campaigning in this latitude. I would have saved the Government sending large re-enforcements, much needed elsewhere; and, finally, the troops themselves were impatient to possess Vicksburg, and would not have worked in the trenches with the same zeal, believing it unnecessary, that they did after their failure to carry the enemy's works.

Accordingly, on the 21st, orders were issued for a general assault on the whole line, to commence at 10 a. m. on the 22d. All the corps commanders set their time by mine, that there should be no difference between them in movement of assault. Promptly at the hour designated the three army corps then in front of the enemy's works commenced the assault. I had taken a commanding position near McPherson's front, and from which I could see all the advancing columns from his corps, and a part of each of Sherman's and McClernand's. A portion of the commands of each succeeded in planting their flags on the outer slopes of the enemy's bastions, and maintained them there until night.

Each corps had many more men than could possibly be used in the assault over such ground as intervened between them and the enemy. More men could only avail in case of breaking through the enemy's line or in repelling a sortie. The assault was gallant in the extreme on the part of all the troops, but the enemy's position was too strong, both naturally and artificially, to be taken in that way. At every point assaulted, and at all of them at the same time, the enemy was able to show all the force his works would cover.

The assault failed, I regret to say, with much loss on our side in killed and wounded, but without weakening the confidence of the troops in their ability to ultimately succeed.

No troops succeeded in entering any of the enemy's works with the exception of Sergeant Griffith, of the Twenty-first [Twenty-second] Iowa Volunteers, and some 11 privates of the same regiment. Of these none returned, except the sergeant and possibly 1 man. The work entered by him, from its position, could give us no practical advantage, unless others to the right and left of it were carried and held at the same time.

About 12 m. I received a dispatch from McClernand that he was hard pressed at several points, in reply to which I directed him to re-enforce the points hard pressed from such troops as he had that were not engaged. I then rode around to Sherman, and had just reached there when I received a second dispatch from McClernand, stating positively and unequivocally that he was in possession of and still held two of the enemy's forts; that the American flag then waved over them, and asking me to have Sherman and McPherson make a diversion in his favor. This dispatch I showed to Sherman, who immediately ordered a renewal of the assault on his front. I also sent an answer to McClernand, directing him to order up McArthur to his assistance, and started im-

mediately to the position I had just left on McPherson's line, to convey to him the information from McClernand by this last dispatch, that he might make the diversion requested. Before reaching McPherson, I met a messenger with a third dispatch from McClernand, of which the following is a copy:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Field, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

GENERAL: We have gained the enemy's intrenchments at several points, but are brought to a stand. I have sent word to McArthur to re-enforce me if he can. Would it not be best to concentrate the whole or a part of his command on this point?

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

P. S.—I have received your dispatch. My troops are all engaged, and I cannot withdraw any to re-enforce others.

The position occupied by me during most of the time of the assault gave me a better opportunity of seeing what was going on in front of the Thirteenth Army Corps than I believed it possible for the commander of it to have. I could not see his possession of forts, nor necessity for re-enforcements, as represented in his dispatches, up to the time I left it, which was between 12 m. and 1 p. m., and I expressed doubts of their correctness, which doubts the facts subsequently, but too late, confirmed. At the time I could not disregard his reiterated statements, for they might possibly be true; and that no possible opportunity of carrying the enemy's stronghold should be allowed to escape through fault of mine, I ordered Quinby's division, which was all of McPherson's corps then present but four brigades, to report to McClernand, and notified him of the order. I showed his dispatches to McPherson, as I had to Sherman, to satisfy him of the necessity of an active diversion on their part to hold as much force in their fronts as possible. The diversion was promptly and vigorously made, and resulted in the increase of our mortality list fully 50 per cent., without advancing our position or giving us other advantages.

About 3.50 p. m. I received McClernand's fourth dispatch as follows:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
May 22, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Department of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: I have received your dispatch in regard to General Quinby's division and General McArthur's division. As soon as they arrive I will press the enemy with all possible speed, and doubt not I will force my way through. I have lost no ground. My men are in two of the enemy's forts, but they are commanded by rifle-pits in the rear. Several prisoners have been taken, who intimate that the rear is strong. At this moment I am hard pressed.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

The assault of this day proved the quality of the soldiers of this army. Without entire success, and with a heavy loss, there was no murmuring or complaining; no falling back, nor other evidence of demoralization.

After the failure of the 22d, I determined upon a regular siege. The troops being now fully awake to the necessity of this, worked diligently and cheerfully. The work progressed rapidly and satisfactorily until July 3, when all was about ready for a final assault.

There was a great scarcity of engineer officers in the beginning, but under the skillful superintendence of Capt. F. E. Prime, of the Engineer Corps, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, of my staff, and Capt. C. B. Comstock, of the Engineer Corps, who joined this command during the siege, such

practical experience was gained as would enable any division of this army hereafter to conduct a siege with considerable skill in the absence of regular engineer officers.

On the afternoon of July 3, a letter was received from Lieutenant-General Pemberton, commanding the Confederate forces at Vicksburg, proposing an armistice and the appointment of commissioners to arrange terms for the capitulation of the place. The correspondence, copies of which are herewith transmitted, resulted in the surrender of the city and garrison of Vicksburg at 10 a. m. July 4, 1863, on the following terms:

The entire garrison, officers and men, were to be paroled, not to take up arms against the United States until exchanged by the proper authorities; officers and men each to be furnished with a parole, signed by himself; officers to be allowed their side-arms and private baggage, and the field, staff, and cavalry officers one horse each; the rank and file to be allowed all their clothing, but no other property; rations from their own stores sufficient to last them beyond our lines; the necessary cooking utensils for preparing their food, and 30 wagons to transport such articles as could not well be carried.

These terms I regarded more favorable to the Government than an unconditional surrender. It saved us the transportation of them north, which at that time would have been very difficult, owing to the limited amount of river transportation on hand, and the expense of subsisting them. It left our army free to operate against Johnston, who was threatening us from the direction of Jackson, and our river transportation to be used for the movement of troops to any point the exigency of the service might require.

I deem it proper to state here, in order that the correspondence may be fully understood, that after my answer to General Pemberton's letter of the morning of the 3d, we had a personal interview on the subject of the capitulation.

The particulars and incidents of the siege will be contained in the reports of division and corps commanders, which will be forwarded as soon as received.

I brought forward during the siege, in addition to Lauman's division and four regiments previously ordered from Memphis, [W. S.] Smith's and Kimball's divisions, of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and assigned Maj. Gen. C. C. Washburn to command of the same.

On June 11, Maj. Gen. F. J. Herron's division, from the Department of the Missouri, arrived, and on the 14th two divisions of the Ninth Army Corps, Maj. Gen. J. G. Parke commanding, arrived. This increase in my force enabled me to make the investment most complete, and at the same time left me a large reserve to watch the movements of Johnston. Herron's division was put into position on the extreme left, south of the city, and Lauman's division was placed between Herron and McClernand. Smith's and Kimball's divisions and Parke's corps were sent to Haynes' Bluff. This place I had fortified on the land side, and every preparation made to resist a heavy force. Johnston crossed Big Black River with a portion of his force, and everything indicated that he would make an attack about June 25. Our position in front of Vicksburg having been made as strong against a sortie from the enemy as his works were against an assault, I placed Major-General Sherman in command of all the troops designated to look after Johnston. The force intended to operate against Johnston, in addition to that at Haynes' Bluff, was one division from each of the Thirteenth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth Army Corps and Lauman's division. Johnston, however, not attacking, I determined to attack him the moment Vicksburg was in our possession,

and accordingly notified Sherman that I should again make an assault on Vicksburg at daylight on the 6th, and for him to have up supplies of all descriptions, ready to move upon receipt of orders, if the assault should prove a success. His preparations were immediately made, and when the place surrendered on the 4th—two days earlier than I had fixed for the attack—Sherman was found ready, and moved at once with a force increased by the remainder of both the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Army Corps, and is at present investing Jackson, where Johnston has made a stand.

In the march from Bruinsburg to Vicksburg, covering a period of twenty days, before supplies could be obtained from Government stores, only five days' rations were issued, and three days' of these were taken in haversacks at the start, and were soon exhausted. All other subsistence was obtained from the country through which we passed. The march was commenced without wagons, except such as could be picked up through the country. The country was abundantly supplied with corn, bacon, beef, and mutton. The troops enjoyed excellent health, and no army ever appeared in better spirits or felt more confident of success.

In accordance with previous instructions, Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut started Col. (now Brig. Gen.) B. H. Grierson with a cavalry force from La Grange, Tenn., to make a raid through the central portion of the State of Mississippi, to destroy railroads and other public property, for the purpose of creating a diversion in favor of the army moving to the attack on Vicksburg.

On April 17, this expedition started, and arrived at Baton Rouge on May 2, having successfully traversed the whole State of Mississippi. This expedition was skillfully conducted, and reflects great credit on Colonel Grierson and all of his command. The notice given this raid by the Southern press confirms our estimate of its importance. It has been one of the most brilliant cavalry exploits of the war, and will be handed down in history as an example to be imitated. Colonel Grierson's report is herewith transmitted.*

I cannot close this report without an expression of thankfulness for my good fortune in being placed in co-operation with an officer of the Navy who accords to every move that seems for the interest and success of our arms his hearty and energetic support. Admiral Porter and the very efficient officers under him have ever shown the greatest readiness in their co-operation, no matter what was to be done or what risk to be taken, either by their men or their vessels. Without this prompt and cordial support, my movements would have been much embarrassed, if not wholly defeated.

Capt. J. W. Shirk, commanding the Tuscumbia, was especially active, and deserving of the highest commendation for his personal attention to the repairing of the damage done our transports by the Vicksburg batteries.

The result of this campaign has been the defeat of the enemy in five battles outside of Vicksburg; the occupation of Jackson, the capital of the State of Mississippi, and the capture of Vicksburg and its garrison and munitions of war; a loss to the enemy of 37,000 prisoners, among whom were 15 general officers; at least 10,000 killed and wounded, and among the killed Generals Tracy, Tilghman, and Green, and hundreds and perhaps thousands of stragglers, who can never be collected and reorganized. Arms and munitions of war for an army of 60,000 men have fallen into our hands, besides a large amount of other public prop-

* See p. 521.

erty, consisting of railroads, locomotives, cars, steamboats, cotton, &c., and much was destroyed to prevent our capturing it.

Our loss in the series of battles may be summed up as follows:*

	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Port Gibson	130	718	5
Fourteen-Mile Creek (skirmish)	4	24	.....
Raymond	69	341	32
Jackson	40	240	6
Champion's Hill	426	1,842	189
Big Black Railroad Bridge	29	242	2
Vicksburg	545	3,688	303

Of the wounded many were but slightly wounded, and continued on duty; many more required but a few days or weeks for their recovery. Not more than one-half of the wounded were permanently disabled.

My personal staff and chiefs of departments have in all cases rendered prompt and efficient service.

In all former reports I have failed to make mention of Company A, Fourth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, Capt. E. D. Osband commanding. This company has been on duty with me as an escort company since November, 1861, and in every engagement I have been in since that time rendered valuable service, attracting general attention for their exemplary conduct, soldiery bearing, and promptness. It would not be overstating the merits of this company to say that many of them would fill with credit any position in a cavalry regiment.

For the brilliant achievements recounted in this report, the Army of the Tennessee, their comrades of the Ninth Army Corps, Herron's division of the Army of the Frontier, and the Navy co-operating with them, deserve the highest honors their country can award.

I have the honor to be, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General U. S. Army, Commanding.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Washington, D. C.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to propose to you an armistice for ——† hours, with a view to arranging terms for the capitulation of Vicksburg. To this end, if agreeable to you, I will appoint three commissioners to meet a like number, to be named by yourself, at such place and hour to-day as you may find convenient.

I make this proposition to save the further effusion of blood, which must otherwise be shed to a frightful extent, feeling myself fully able to maintain my position for a yet indefinite period.

This communication will be handed you under flag of truce by Maj. Gen. J. S. Bowen.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

* But see general summary of casualties, Part II, p. 167.
† In Pemberton's report, "several."

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In the Field, near Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: Your note of this date is just received, proposing an armistice for several hours, for the purpose of arranging terms of capitulation through commissioners to be appointed, &c.

The useless effusion of blood you propose stopping by this course can be ended at any time you may choose, by an unconditional surrender of the city and garrison. Men who have shown so much endurance and courage as those now in Vicksburg will always challenge the respect of an adversary, and I can assure you will be treated with all the respect due to prisoners of war.

I do not favor the proposition of appointing commissioners to arrange terms of capitulation, because I have no terms other than those indicated above.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss.:

GENERAL: In conformity with agreement of this afternoon, I will submit the following proposition for the surrender of the city of Vicksburg, public stores, &c.:

On your accepting the terms proposed, I will march in one division as a guard, and take possession at 8 a. m. to-morrow. As soon as rolls can be made out, and paroles signed by officers and men, you will be allowed to march out of our lines, the officers taking with them their side-arms and clothing, and the field, staff, and cavalry officers one horse each. The rank and file will be allowed all their clothing, but no other property. If these conditions are accepted, any amount of rations you may deem necessary can be taken from the stores you now have, and also the necessary cooking utensils for preparing them. Thirty wagons also, counting two two-horse or mule teams as one, will be allowed to transport such articles as cannot be carried along.

The same conditions will be allowed to all sick and wounded officers and soldiers as fast as they become able to travel.

The paroles for these latter must be signed, however, while officers are present authorized to sign the roll of prisoners.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, proposing terms of capitulation for this garrison and post.

In the main, your terms are accepted; but in justice both to the honor and spirit of my troops, manifested in the defense of Vicksburg, I have to submit the following amendments, which, if acceded to by you, will perfect the agreement between us.

At 10 a. m. to-morrow I propose to evacuate the works in and around Vicksburg, and to surrender the city and garrison under my command, by marching out with my colors and arms, stacking them in front of my present lines, after which you will take possession.

Officers to retain their side-arms and personal property, and the rights and property of citizens to be respected.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., July 4, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of July 3. The amendment proposed by you cannot be acceded to in full. It will be necessary to furnish every officer and man with a parole signed by himself, which, with the completion of the rolls of prisoners, will necessarily take some time.

Again, I can make no stipulations with regard to the treatment of citizens and their private property. While I do not propose to cause them any undue annoyance or loss, I cannot consent to leave myself under any restraint by stipulations. The property which officers will be allowed to take with them will be as stated in my proposition of last evening; that is, officers will be allowed their private baggage and side-arms, and mounted officers one horse each.

If you mean by your proposition for each brigade to march to the front of the lines now occupied by it, and stack arms at 10 a. m., and then return to the inside, and there remain as prisoners until properly paroled, I will make no objection to it.

Should no notification be received of your acceptance of my terms by 9 a. m., I shall regard them as having been rejected, and shall act accordingly. Should these terms be accepted, white flags should be displayed along your lines to prevent such of my troops as may not have been notified from firing upon your men.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 6.]

HEADQUARTERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 4, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this day, and in reply to say that the terms proposed by you are accepted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

VICKSBURG, *July* 6, 1863.

General H. W. HALLECK, *Washington, D. C.:*

The number of prisoners and pieces of artillery taken with Vicksburg is greater than was at first supposed. The number proves to be over 30,000 prisoners* and over one hundred and seventy pieces of artillery. We have found considerable ammunition and about four days' rations of flour and bacon, and 250 pounds of sugar.

The small-arms are of good quality and over 50,000 in number.

Sherman is after Johnston, but no news from him to-day.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 7, 1863.

Major-General GRANT, *Near Vicksburg, Miss.:*

Advices just received from New Orleans of the condition of General Banks' army render it important that you send him aid if it be possible for you to do so.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., *July* 7, 1863.

Major-General GRANT, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that you have been appointed a major-general in the Regular Army, to rank from July 4, the date of your capture of Vicksburg.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 8, 1863—6.45 p. m.

Major-General GRANT, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

I fear your paroling the garrison at Vicksburg without actual delivery to a proper agent, as required by the fourteenth article of the cartel, may be construed into an absolute release, and that the men will be immediately placed in the ranks of the enemy. Such has been the case elsewhere. If these prisoners have not been allowed to depart, you will retain them till further orders.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 10, 1863—10 a. m.

Major-General GRANT, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

On a full examination of the question, it is decided that you, as the commander of an army, were authorized to agree upon the parole and release of the garrison of Vicksburg with the general commanding the place.

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

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* There were 29,491 captured at Vicksburg and 1,147 captured at Jackson, Natchez, and Yazoo City. Total, 30,638.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, August 1, 1863—9.45 a. m.

Major-General GRANT,
Vicksburg, Miss.:

GENERAL: Your report, dated July 6, of your campaign in Mississippi, ending in the capitulation of Vicksburg, was received last evening. Your narrative of this campaign, like the operations themselves, is brief, soldierly, and in every respect creditable and satisfactory. In boldness of plan, rapidity of execution, and brilliancy of results, these operations will compare most favorably with those of Napoleon about Ulm. You and your army have well deserved the gratitude of your country, and it will be the boast of your children that their fathers were of the heroic army which reopened the Mississippi River.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief.

No. 3.

Reports of Mr. Charles A. Dana, special commissioner of the United States War Department.

COLUMBUS, KY., *March* 20, 1863—4.30 p. m.

There is absolutely no information here respecting affairs down the river. General Rosecrans having abandoned Forts Henry and Heiman and ordered them to be leveled, and a rebel force having appeared at Heiman, Hurlbut, on Asboth's reporting the facts, ordered him to reoccupy Heiman, considering it to be the key to both Columbus and Paducah. Asboth accordingly proceeded there by water with two regiments of infantry, two cannon, and some cavalry, and found a small body of rebels at Heiman, who escaped with their leader, Major Blanton [?]. The order of General Rosecrans to level the works had not been executed, Henry being partially overflowed. Blanton was collecting horses and raising conscripts. The whole country being open to him, while the possession of Heiman would have made him master of the navigation of the Tennessee, the force mentioned was left by Asboth in Heiman, and he got back here by land yesterday, The iron-clad gunboat Tuscumbia, Capt. J. W. Shirk, co-operated in the movement, and destroyed all the flats and skiffs collected by the rebels to force their operations on both sides of the Tennessee. Hereafter two small gunboats will patrol that river as far up as Savannah.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

COLUMBUS, KY., *March* 20, 1863.

Captain [J. W.] Rigby, of Logan's staff, arrived here this evening, and reports that expedition down Yazoo, under McPherson, consisting of Seventeenth Army Corps and Ross' division, captured a rebel fort at the junction of Tallahatchee and Yalabusha on the 13th instant, and took a small rebel force in the fort prisoners. Rigby does not know how many guns were in the fort. The attack was made by the gunboat

Chillicothe, which received twenty shots, one of which, entering a port-hole, killed 3 men and wounded several. McPherson has advanced down 40 miles below the fort, and is some 25 miles frow Yazoo City. That place has not been attacked, and no rebel transports have been captured. McPherson's army is in perfect condition and excellent health. Forces to re-enforce him are now moving down from Missouri under E. A. Carr, two regiments having passed here to-day.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 23, 1863,
VIA BOAT TO CAIRO, *March* 25.

The report brought to Columbus by Rigby and telegraphed by me from there on the 20th was erroneous. The force on the Yazoo consisted originally of 4,500 men, under Ross. To this have been added 3,500 under Quinby, who now commands. McPherson with the remainder of the Thirteenth [Seventeenth?] Corps is at Helena, and part of Carr's force is also there, waiting for boats to join the expedition; but large boats entering Yazoo Pass may go forward, but cannot return, and enough small boats cannot be found to convey the re-enforcements with any rapidity. The expedition is now arrested at Greenwood, at the junction of the Tallahatchee and Yalabusha, where a rebel earthwork named Fort Pemberton, situated on a knoll made inaccessible by a swamp and mounting heavy guns, commands the channel. This fort is of recent construction, built after the rebels discovered the plan of the expedition. The heavy pieces of a gunboat have been disembarked, and with some 24-pounder howitzers planted in a battery against this fort, but without serious effect, and the expedition is effectually checked for the present. The whole force under McPherson is in round numbers 25,000, while re-enforcements are being hurried forward by way of Yazoo Pass. General Grant is sending 6,000 men overland from Greenville, on the Mississippi, to move on Yazoo and co-operate with the expedition, but the country through which this body will have to pass is difficult and full of streams, of which the Sunflower is the most considerable. General Gorman, at Helena, had on the 21st a report that this corps had effected a junction with Quinby, but it is scarcely possible.

With regard to details of operations before Vicksburg, it is impossible to procure them here. The cutting of Lake Providence is perfectly successful, but Bayou Macon is very full of snags, which must be got out before the Tensas will be accessible. The canal opposite Vicksburg has broken through at its upper end. The river, entering with great force, strikes the railroad embankment, built longitudinally across the peninsula, which diverts the current to the bottom in the rear, and floods the land without cutting the channel. A pile-driver was sent down from here ten days ago in order to bar the opening into the canal, so that the digging may be resumed, but by the time it is successfully completed the lower approaches to Vicksburg will no doubt be as strongly defended as from above. The health of General Grant's army has greatly improved, and at present the sick-list is no larger than usual. This is not so well informed a place as I hoped to find it.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 24, 1863—3 p. m.,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *March* 27.

The Yazoo Pass expedition has retreated up the Yalabusha (according to General B. M. Prentiss) a distance of 100 miles, removing the guns from the battery planted against Fort Pemberton. It now waits for re-enforcements and supplies, the gunboat Chillicothe having gotten out of ammunition. Some of the small boats attached to this expedition, however, are reported to me by Paymaster [Edwin D.] Judd (who left Young's Point Friday) as having succeeded in passing Pemberton. Those have come down the Yazoo and made their way into Steele's Bayou, near Vicksburg. Judd saw them, and saw a messenger from them who communicated with General Grant. Learning from this source that the Yazoo was accessible from Steele's Bayou, General Grant has already moved D. Stuart's (formerly Morgan Smith's) division, 6,000 strong, under Sherman, into the Yazoo from Eagle Bend, on the Mississippi, about 40 miles above Vicksburg. The strip of land between that bend and Steele's Bayou is 1½ miles wide. J. McArthur's division, of McPherson's corps, was to move yesterday from Lake Providence to Eagle Bend to re-enforce Sherman, making his whole force about 13,000 men. I learn from General N. Kimball, who left Young's Point on Saturday afternoon, that Admiral Porter, with gunboats, has entered the Yazoo above Haynes' Bluff by way of Steele's Bayou. The movement across from Greenville to re-enforce the Yazoo Pass expedition has been abandoned, the route being impracticable, and the division (Quinby's) by which it was attempted is at Helena, waiting for transportation through the pass. J. E. Smith's division, McPherson's corps, was to move from Helena into the pass this morning. The water is now flowing freely through the whole length of the canal opposite Vicksburg, but produces no effect in wearing away the compact clay soil, which in the lower half of its course is especially tenacious. The dredging machines are inadequate to complete the excavations, and the water, though too shallow for the boats, is too deep for men to dig in. Both Kimball and Judd think it is a failure, but Admiral Farragut having arrived from below on Friday with the vessels Hartford and Albatross, the failure is of less consequence. In coming up, Admiral Farragut drove the Queen of the West and the rebel boats into the Big Black, where he could not follow them with his deep vessels. Admiral Porter had ordered the Lafayette to pass Vicksburg and join Farragut Saturday night. Kimball reports Lake Providence Canal will now freely and safely pass the largest vessels through into Red River. Kimball thinks the enemy are already moving away material and preparing to evacuate Vicksburg.

The cutting of the Mississippi levees has flooded the whole country, and their only avenue of supplies or of escape is now the Jackson Railroad. General Grant is dead sure that he will have the place within a fortnight.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 25, 1863—5 p. m.,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *March* 27.

A steamer which left Young's Point Landing arrived this morning; reports no news. Some officers came by her, but I have vainly tried to

find them. Hurlbut has no intelligence. Private advices confirm that Porter's gunboats are in the Yazoo, above Haynes' Bluff. Two commissary transports have been sunk in Yazoo Pass by snags. There is a rumor that the expedition is definitely abandoned, but I can get nothing official.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN.,
March 26, 1863—1 p. m.

A scout of Hurlbut's, who left Mobile March 17, reports extraordinary trains of sick arriving there from Vicksburg, Port Hudson, Jackson, and other posts of the Vicksburg army. The stations and towns along the way were also full of them. Stopping supplies from Opelousas has deprived that army of meat. I saw yesterday a Mr. Jordan, a very intelligent planter, who resides on Yazoo. He says that river is fortified at Shell Bend and at Honey Island much more powerfully than at Greenwood. Liverpool Bluff, 27 miles above Haynes', is equally fortified, as the river is obstructed there by a raft as it is at Haynes'. The fact reported by Paymaster Judd, that boats from above Greenwood had got down into Steele's Bayou, he pronounces physically impossible. The Big Black he declares to be impracticable for boats of any size larger than skiffs, except at its mouth, where they may get in behind Grand Gulf, and he denies what others have asserted, that there is a draw in the railroad bridge back of Vicksburg. That bridge, he says, is protected by fortifications held by 20,000 men, so that the rebels regard its destruction as an impossibility. They think Vicksburg impregnable against any force but starvation.

Let me suggest that I should be much more useful farther down the river than here. At General Grant's headquarters I can get the truth. Here it is difficult and uncertain.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN.,
March 27, 1863—3.30 p. m.

The news from Young's Point is to Monday, March 23. There is official information from Helena, but none has come here. The report is that Sherman has got twenty regiments landed on the east bank of Yazoo River above Haynes' Bluff, and that the greatest enthusiasm prevails throughout the army at this success. The report that he is supported by gunboats in Yazoo River is repeated. It is also stated that the channel from Deer Creek into the Sunflower had to be enlarged by digging in order to pass them, but all reports here on this subject are confused and doubtful. The Yazoo Pass expedition is not abandoned, but has received supplies and been re-enforced by Quinby's division. General Hurlbut's advices of March 17, from Mobile, report that five iron-clad rams are ready for use in the harbor, those built at Selma having been brought down.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 28, 1863—4 p. m.,
VIA CAIRO, *March* 31.

On Tuesday evening last, the rams Lancaster and Switzerland started to run the batteries at Vicksburg. The Lancaster had her bow carried away by a shot; was also hit amidships, and sank in twenty minutes. Whether any on board were saved is unknown. The Switzerland was also hit, but got through without serious damage, being taken in tow by the Albatross, which came under fire to her assistance. No news from Sherman's command nor from Yazoo Pass. A passenger train from Memphis to Jackson was captured by guerrillas near Moscow this morning at 10 o'clock. Forty persons were taken. The engineer cut loose, and got safely to Moscow with the locomotive.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 30, 1863.

C. A. DANA, Esq.,
Memphis, Tenn., via Cairo:

Your telegrams have been received, and although the information has been meager and unsatisfactory, I am conscious that arises from no fault of yours. You will proceed to General Grant's headquarters, or wherever you may be best able to accomplish the purposes designated by this Department. You will consider your movements to be governed by your own discretion without any restriction.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 30, 1863—5 p. m.,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *April* 1.

General Grant has sent for all steamboats that can be had, as if he intended to move the bulk of his army from its present position, and has ordered J. G. Lauman's division here to be held ready for instant movement. Three boat-loads of Carr's men passed down to Helena on Saturday. No official news from below. An officer arrived here reports the crew of ram Lancaster escaped from that vessel in yawls as she sank, only two being lost by drowning. A report that ram Monarch had run batteries safely he pronounces untrue. No gunboats have entered Yazoo River from Porter's fleet. They can't force the passage from Deer Creek into the Sunflower. Porter himself, while reconnoitering a bayou in a small steamer, was caught by felling trees in his rear. Two regiments of infantry were sent out and extricated him.

The newspapers here say Sherman has taken Haynes' Bluff, but I can find no foundation for the report. General Dodge telegraphs from Corinth that Midshipman Henry Travis, of sloop-of-war Mississippi, arrived there yesterday, paroled. He left, prisoners at Jackson, the captain of marines and 46 men, who escaped with him from that vessel. He reports the ship lost by becoming uncontrollable in the current and getting aground, not a shot having struck her previously. After she grounded they fought her an hour, and then set her on fire. All hands made for the shore. She then floated a distance down stream and blew up. She was not harmed by the rebels' fire, as the guns on the bluff could not be depressed to damage her much. It is ascertained by a spy of Hurl-

but's that up to Wednesday last no force had been withdrawn from Vicksburg, except one brigade sent to Yazoo City. A great part of the rebel army was, however, previously east of the Big Black. He also reports but few troops, and those militia, at Grenada, but heavy force at ———. Since they came into the ——— they carried off all the carpenters and carpenters' tools at Panola; they are also gathering troops. They are evidently preparing a movement either against Hurlbut or Yazoo City. Rebel sympathizers here are informed the Indianola is not sunk or destroyed, but is being repaired behind Grand Gulf, in Big Black. They also declare Vicksburg fully provisioned for nine months. The rebels have assembled a force of 4,000 at Tuscumbia, and a few days ——— left or against the right of General Rosecrans. I wrote from Columbus respecting Fort Heiman. Hurlbut has notified General Rosecrans, to whose department it now belongs, that he (Hurlbut) cannot continue to garrison it. I respectfully suggest it ought by no means to be abandoned.

The mutinous One hundred and ninth Illinois, decimated by desertion, has gone down to report to General Grant under guard, but yet without being disarmed. The One hundred and twenty-eighth, which had nearly all deserted at Cairo, have been mostly recaptured, and are under guard there.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 31, 1863—1.30 p. m.

Sherman, with his troops, returned to Young's Point on Friday, March 27, the attempt to reach the Yazoo by way of Steele's Bayou and the Sunflower having proved futile.

Porter's entrapment on Rolling Fork, mentioned in my dispatch of yesterday, occurred on Sunday, March 22. The Confederate force was about 4,000, with artillery, and the skirmish for his extrication lasted nearly all day. We had 10 or 12 privates killed and wounded, and an engineer on a tug killed by a shell.

The ram Switzerland was so much damaged in passing Vicksburg that she must be repaired before she can be of service.

No news from the Yazoo Pass expedition, which, as I now learn, returned down the Coldwater to the Tallahatchee by General Grant's express order. Quinby's division is with it.

Ten of the most prominent and wealthy secession families of Memphis yesterday received orders from Hurlbut to leave the city instantly. This is in consequence of orders issued in January notifying all such persons that their remaining here depended upon their friends beyond our lines leaving the railroad undisturbed. The attack of 28th near Moscow is punished by this expulsion. The same attack has also been more severely punished by Lieutenant-Colonel [Reuben] Loomis, of Grierson's cavalry, from La Grange, who was sent by General W. S. Smith with 200 men to pursue the guerrillas. He overtook them Sunday afternoon, 100 strong, 6 miles southeast of Bèlmont, Tenn., and after a brisk skirmish they gave way, leaving in Loomis' hands Captain [Reuben] Burrow, 1 orderly sergeant, and 9 privates prisoners. Proceeding 5 or 6 miles farther, Loomis bivouacked, and precisely at midnight his command, consisting of only 130 men, deducting those out on picket duty, was attacked by Col. R. V. Richardson with 500 or 600 men. After fighting about fifteen minutes the rebels fell back, leaving on the

field 2 lieutenants and 4 privates killed, and Major [B. B.] Benson mortally wounded. The neighboring people report they had 40 or 50 killed and several wounded, including Richardson himself, whose wounds are dangerous. We lost Lieut. Jesse B. Wilson and 7 privates killed and 35 wounded, many of them slightly, including 4 commissioned officers. Wilson fell very gallantly in the thick of the *mêlée*, fighting in his shirt-sleeves as he had sprung from sleep. The rebels fled from their own camp at 2 o'clock in the morning. Loomis brought in 20 prisoners.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 1, 1863—4 p. m.

On Saturday, the 28th, after the return of Sherman, Grant said confidentially that he had now tried unsuccessfully every conceivable indirect means of attacking Vicksburg, and that nothing but a direct assault upon the enemy's works remained. This is also the opinion of the general officers of his command. With regard to such an assault, the judgment of these officers is divided. Frank Blair is reported to me as favoring it, but I believe General Grant himself is opposed to it, as is Sherman, the most influential of all General Grant's subordinates, though I have no positive information on that point. I have no doubt that General Grant is about to move the bulk of his army back up the river. He is confident, however, that without taking Vicksburg he can, in co-operation with Admiral Farragut and General Banks, effectually cut off Confederate supplies from west of the river. Deserters from Vicksburg who arrived in General Grant's camp on Saturday report that food, excluding meat, is plenty in the town. There had been a deficiency, but now the supply is ample. A Mr. Walton—a respectable gentleman, who arrived from Lower and Central Mississippi at General W. S. Smith's headquarters, La Grange, yesterday—reports that supplies for Vicksburg are everywhere being seized. In Noxubee County 200,000 pounds of pork have just been taken. He also reports that there is not much Confederate force in Northern and Eastern Mississippi, but a great concentration against General Rosecrans, especially of cavalry. He says there are already 20,000 horsemen in Johnston's army, and every effort is being made to swell the number to 25,000, in order to make the defeat of General Rosecrans crushing in case he should have the worst in the approaching battle.

Dodge reports from Corinth to-day that the rebels are repairing all the bridges across the streams from Savannah east and Florence north. They are also building a large number of boats in the creeks leading into the Tennessee River, and have massed a body of cavalry at the mouth of Duck River. The same officer reported yesterday that Van Dorn's men had fallen back from Lawrenceburg to Lowryville, and that about 500 cavalry remained at Waynesborough. The men said they were going back to Mississippi.

From Yazoo Pass there is news of the renewal of fighting at Fort Pemberton, but nothing official or decisive on this subject. I shall doubtless be able to report fully from Helena, whither I go to-morrow. Your dispatch of the 30th is received.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 2, 1863.

General J. D. Webster, of General Grant's staff, who left Young's Point Tuesday afternoon, arrived here this evening. From him I have authentic information. General Grant has no intention of either withdrawing the bulk of his army or attempting a direct assault on Vicksburg. When Webster left, arrangements had been completed for beginning to open a passage from 7 to 9 miles long through a bayou emptying into the Mississippi at Milliken's Bend to a point below Warrenton. Extent of canal to be dug is from one-half to two-thirds of a mile. The bayou will also have to be straightened and widened in one or two places and cleared of trees. Webster thinks that the job will not require more than two weeks' time. Another plan, which is also contemplated, is to float empty transports past Vicksburg in the dark, having steam enough to save them from floating ashore in case of need, but not enough to betray their presence to the enemy. Having got them past, Grant's troops can be marched down on the Louisiana side, embarked below the rebel batteries, and conveyed to the point where they will most effectually threaten the bridge over the Big Black. Our engineers have constructed two casemates on the shore opposite Vicksburg, whence with 30-pounder Parrotts they can destroy any building in the town. The distance is some 3,000 yards. These casemates are of timber covered with railroad iron and protected by embankments. When Webster left, they were nearly completed, but as the work was done at night they had not attracted the attention of the enemy. They are the more safe because, little lateral play being required for the guns, their embrasures are unusually narrow. The Yazoo Pass expedition is definitely abandoned, but the orders required a final and vigorous attack on Fort Pemberton before withdrawing. The army officers in that expedition blame very greatly the captain of the Chillicothe, who commanded the naval force, for not taking with him sufficient ammunition at the outset. Could he have fought his vessel a little longer, the fort might easily have been taken. I leave for Young's Point on first boat.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

P. S.—General Grant has ordered the Memphis and Charleston Railroad between Grand Junction and Corinth to be opened. Webster begins it to-morrow. Paymaster Judd received to-day $5,000,000, which has been distributed to his subordinates, who will leave for the points of disbursement to-morrow. General Hurlbut proposes to settle the negro question here by enrolling for duty as pioneers, teamsters, &c., all who are fit for service in this immediate vicinity and along the line of the railroad which he is guarding, taking sufficient bonds for the good treatment and return of the persons. This plan General Grant has approved, and it will at once be put into execution. Hurlbut also proposes to select out of the enrolled men a regiment of artillerymen to garrison the fort here. He says he can find excellent material, and that the men will not be troubled by the white soldiers. This project has not been submitted to General Grant—C. A. D.

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HELENA, *April* 5, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, *April* 10.

I find here no important information respecting General Grant's movements. McClernand has moved from his position at Milliken's Bend

and on the 3d occupied Richmond, on the railroad opposite Vicksburg. Yesterday he was to have occupied New Carthage, on the Louisiana side, below Warrenton. Steele's division has been thrown up to Greenville, on the Mississippi side, with the design of capturing a rebel force of one or two regiments in the country between that point and the Sunflower. No part of the Yazoo Pass expedition has arrived here, nor is there any information that the retreat is yet commenced.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, *April* 6, 1863—3 p. m.,
VIA CAIRO, ILL., *April* 10—8.40 p. m.

I arrived here to-day at noon. General Grant is very confident that Vicksburg will soon be taken, not only from the result of the operations now on foot, but also from the starvation of the garrison. He tells me that all supplies from his side of the river are already entirely cut off, and those from the Yazoo country are greatly diminished; that he expects them to be altogether stopped by the operations of Steele's division, whose movement to Greenville was mentioned in my dispatch from Helena yesterday. His advices from the town represent the people as already suffering much, and the garrison on reduced rations; that McClernand's corps occupied New Carthage yesterday, and that McPherson is about to move from Lake Providence to this place. The new cut-off is already half completed. Three thousand five hundred men are at work on it to-day, and Col. G. G. Pride, the engineer in charge, says that he will be ready for it just as soon as the necessary tugs and barges can be got here from up the river. The length of navigation in this cut-off will be some 30 miles, and the plan is to take through it small tugs, with some fifty barges, enough to cross the whole army, with artillery and baggage, in twenty-four hours. The channel will only be wide enough for narrow crafts. The half dozen steamboats, protected by defenses of sand-bags and wet hay, will be floated down the river past the batteries, to serve as transports of supplies after the crossing is effected; the landing to be made at or about Grand Gulf, and the army is to operate on the southern or eastern shore of the Big Black, where the land is elevated and the roads good, threatening both the bridge across the Big Black and Jackson, the one point some 50 miles and the other some 75 miles from the place of debarkation. The enemy will be compelled to come out and fight. The wagon train left behind when the army left Memphis has now been ordered down for the purposes of this movement.

Of course this dispatch is hurried and incomplete as regards details, but I deemed it best to lose no time in sending it forward.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, *April* 8, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 11—5 p. m.

Everything is going on cheeringly. The canal from Duckport to the bayou will be ready by night to let in the water. A force equal to five regiments is now at work digging, while a strong body of pioneers are engaged clearing the bayou. From Richmond to the river it is already

clear, steamboats having formerly ascended to that place. None of Quinby's forces have yet been heard of here, though the rebel newspaper, the Appeal, says they withdrew up the Coldwater on Thursday last. There are no indications of any attempt on the part of the rebels to cut them off. Quinby will come directly here and not debark at Lake Providence, where McPherson and the rest of the Seventeenth Army Corps are. I learn that when Admiral Porter was entrapped by the rebels at Deer Creek week before last, his situation was so desperate that when Sherman's forces arrived to relieve him, they found he had already smeared his gunboats with turpentine preparatory to abandoning them and setting them afire.

Weather continues cool here. Neither mosquitoes nor gnats have yet troubled men or animals.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, *April* 10, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 13.

Everything goes forward encouragingly. The canal will be ready for trial in two or three days, as soon as the water is let in, which it is deemed advisable to postpone for fear the overflow may destroy the road hence to Richmond and Carthage before the remaining troops of McClernand's corps have marched over it. The preparations for running the batteries by the gunboats and transports are also nearly completed, and that enterprise will soon be accomplished. Probably five or six gunboats, including the rest of the squadron, led by Admiral Porter himself, will go down within two days, as the nights are dark and promise to be cloudy. The actual length of the canal and bayou navigation proves to be 37 miles, and Capt. F. E. Prime, who returned last night from exploring the whole passage, reports that there will be no difficulty in making it practicable throughout, if necessary, by cutting the levee near the head of the bayou and flooding the whole country. A depth of 15 feet of water can be gotten throughout the entire passage. But perhaps the best evidence of the possibility of the project is found in the fact that the river men who have seen it pronounce its success certain. General Sherman, with whom I have conversed at length upon the subject, thinks there is no difficulty in opening the passage, but that the line will be a precarious one after the army is thrown across the Mississippi. His preference is for a movement by way of Yazoo Pass, landing the army somewhere in the region of Charleston, and threatening Grenada and Jackson from that point, at the same time that the rich region of Northern Mississippi is held and the enemy deprived of the supplies derived from the line of the Yazoo and the Sunflower; or he is in favor of moving down by way of Lake Providence to the line of the Tensas and Red Rivers, and by holding that region sever the rebel connections and shut off their western supplies; but I judge that his mind is now tending to the conclusion of General Grant in favor of crossing, seizing Grand Gulf, and operating from that basis. As for General Grant, his purpose is set in that direction, and if the new canal should fail he will move his entire forces overland to Carthage or thereabouts, run transports enough past batteries to carry them, and provision them by wagons, and by running the batteries afterward. Admiral Porter cordially agrees with the plan now being executed. How far the enemy suspects this scheme is uncertain. Parts of it have been

published in some of the Northern papers, but the probability is that the rebels regard the publication as a blind to cover other designs. They believe Snyder's or Drumgould's Bluff is to be assaulted, and there and at Chickasaw Bayou they are making considerable preparations. They are, however, perfectly aware of the construction of our casemated batteries in front of the city, two of which were completed yesterday, while the other two are to be done to-night. They fired one gun at them yesterday, but evidently do not mean to waste ammunition on them. These batteries will open on the town whenever a feigned attack is made on Snyder's Bluff and whenever the gunboats go down.

Whether the enemy is strengthening Grand Gulf is not known. At last advices, J. S. Bowen's Missouri brigade was there, with one or two Louisiana companies. The forces are all safe out of Yazoo Pass. The weather is warm, but not uncomfortable. The health of the troops could hardly be better. Sterling Price and Kirby Smith were both at Little Rock on the 1st or 2d. Price has offered pardon to all deserters who will return, and has gathered about 10,000 men.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 12, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 15—1 p. m.
(Received April 15—9.30 p. m.)

An important modification has resulted in the immediate plan of operations from a letter of General Halleck received on the 10th. It is now determined that after the occupation of Grand Gulf, instead of operating up the Big Black toward Jackson and the bridge in the rear of Vicksburg, the main force shall proceed against Port Hudson. Dispatches will at once be sent to General Banks inviting him to co-operate. There is still some uncertainty respecting the time of the movement. The original plan was to depend on the canal for transporting supplies, and, if necessary, troops also, but about Wednesday last this plan was changed so far as to determine to march the troops to New Carthage by way of Richmond, and preparations have been made to improve the road for that purpose by raising it above the expected level of the water, but it now appears that the canal and road cannot both be relied upon. If the water is let into the canal, the road will probably be overflowed, while a rain-storm which prevailed through last night made the road very muddy, and proved that a storm of twenty-four hours would render it impassable for days. It is probable, accordingly, that the canal will be employed for troops as well as supplies, and that the movement will be postponed till it can be fully opened. Col. G. G. Pride estimates that another week will be requisite to let in the water, finish the dredging, and entirely clear out all the trees. The digging is already complete so far as it can be done by hand, and the clearing of the trees has been carried nearly to Richmond. The barges and tugs which are expected from Saint Louis will probably not arrive before the end of the present week. If, however, General Grant adheres to his later idea of marching some 30,000 men to New Carthage, the water cannot be let into the canal until they have gotten over the road. There will be no chance of their finding ground to camp on out of reach of the overflow that the opening of the canal will produce, but if this plan is adopted, Admiral Porter will take his vessels down within the next three days, and transports for the troops will also run the batteries, and the blow at

Grand Gulf will be struck before the canal is finished and its utility decided by experiment. Admiral Porter is ready and anxious to go forward, but I presume the more cautious course will be chosen. The attack on Grand Gulf will be led by McClernand, and though General Grant has not told me so, I conclude he intends the same officer to have command of the further movement against Port Hudson. I have remonstrated, so far as I could properly do so, against intrusting so momentous an operation to McClernand, and I know that Admiral Porter and prominent members of his staff have done the same, but General Grant will not be changed. McClernand is exceedingly desirous of this command. He is the senior of the other corps commanders. He is believed to be an especial favorite of the President, and the position which his corps occupied on the ground here when this movement was first projected was such that the advance naturally fell to its lot; besides, he entered zealously into the plan from the first, while Sherman doubted and criticised, and McPherson, whom General Grant would really much prefer, is away at Lake Providence; and though I understand him to approve of the scheme, he has had no active part in it. It is estimated that 10,000 men can take Grand Gulf, fortify it, and hold it, and at the same time make any necessary feints up the shore of the Big Black, while 20,000 more go down to Port Hudson. In this operation McClernand and McPherson will both be engaged, while Sherman will remain to menace Vicksburg from here and guard the line of communications. McPherson's troops have been ordered here for the movement. F. Steele reports from Greenville that he has taken 2,000 head of cattle and great numbers of negroes, and destroyed enormous quantities of forage that he could not remove. He pursued S. W. Ferguson as far as he dared. General [Lorenzo] Thomas arrived here yesterday. He is quite ill with the diarrhea, but is better this morning.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, *April* 14, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, *April* 23.

Col. G. G. Pride let the water into his canal at 12 m. yesterday. The channel is now full, and there is no reason to doubt its usefulness. The dredges have been at work deepening it all to-day. Maj. W. Tweeddale, who was sent with a working party to clear out the trees from the bayou, reports that all is done to within 5 miles of Richmond, but that the remaining distance is much more obstructed than the rest of the line, so that four days at least will be required to open the passage for tugs and barges. From Richmond to New Carthage the way is believed to be clear, though it is not yet settled whether opening this canal will overflow the road. General Grant is pushing troops forward to New Carthage by the road. He thinks no overflow will occur. Osterhaus' division has been at New Carthage for ten days; A. J. Smith's division is under orders to march to-morrow, and Hovey follows immediately, all under McClernand. The camp equipage of the army corps is to be sent down in four barges along with Admiral Porter's gunboats, which are intended to run the batteries to-morrow night, taking with them three transports. Having passed the batteries, the transports, barges, and gunboats will take on board 10,000 troops, and capture Grand Gulf before it can be re-enforced. The transports and barges will at once return for more troops, and as soon as the whole

force can be embarked and the working of the canal insures supplies, the movement against Port Hudson will proceed. Though the danger of going against Grand Gulf before the canal is done is understood, still, General Grant thinks it necessary to take the risk, for fear the enemy may get before him. It is, however, now settled that McClernand will not go farther than Grand Gulf, but will remain there to command the post, while General Grant himself will go on to Port Hudson, taking McPherson and 30,000 troops with him. Enemy still, apparently, have no idea of this movement, but look constantly for an assault on Haynes' Bluff or Vicksburg direct.

Health and spirits of troops excellent. Weather cool and somewhat rainy, but not enough so to spoil the roads.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, April 16, 1863.

C. A. DANA,
Milliken's Bend, via Memphis:

Your several dispatches have been duly received, and are very wel come. Allow me to suggest that you carefully avoid giving any advice in respect to commands that may be assigned, as it may lead to misunderstanding and troublesome complications.

EDWIN M. STANTON.

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MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 16, 1863—6 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *April* 24.
(Received April 25—4.40 p. m.)

Vicksburg batteries will be run to-night about 9 o'clock. Fleet will consist of six iron-clad turtles, viz: Benton, Mound City, Carondelet, Louisville, Pittsburg, and DeKalb, besides Lafayette, iron-clad, and General Price, heavy armed ram. Admiral Porter had intended to take the Tuscumbia, iron-clad, also, but has concluded to leave her in Yazoo. Transports consist of Henry Clay and Forest Queen, side-wheel steamers, and Silver Wave, stern-wheel, having twelve barges in tow, or following separately in the current. The barges carry the camp equipage of General McClernand's corps, some forage, and some coal. There is also one which will float down far astern, carrying ammunition. Admiral Porter, who goes in command, also takes a small tug. The gunboats and transports are protected in vulnerable parts by bulwarks of hay, cotton, and sand-bags. No doubt is felt that the design is known in Vicksburg, and Admiral Porter will fire all his guns in passing. Our new batteries on the levee will also participate.

General Grant goes to New Carthage to-morrow morning to direct the subsequent operations from that point, though, as I have previously reported, General McClernand will command the attack upon Grand Gulf. All of McClernand's troops that remain here, including A. J. Smith's and Carr's divisions, have marched for New Carthage.

Quinby's division, of General McPherson's corps, arrived here yesterday. Quinby remains at Helena, dangerously sick, and the command devolves upon Col. J. B. Sanborn. McPherson, with one of his other divisions, probably McArthur's, is expected to-day or to-morrow, and his whole corps should be here within five days. The weather is per-

fect for either marching or fighting, and the spirit of the troops is all that could be desired. The labor on Pride's cut-off is pushed forward with energy, and everything about it continues to be encouraging. The road to Richmond and New Carthage is overflowed to some extent, but is not rendered impassable.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 17, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 24.

Admiral Porter's squadron cast loose from its moorings in mouth of Yazoo just before 10 o'clock last night, and dropped down the Mississippi darkly and silently, showing neither steam nor light save occasionally a signal astern, where the enemy could not see it. The vessels moved at intervals of about 200 yards, the Benton leading, the rest following, as pointed out in my dispatch of yesterday, save that the Tuscumbia went instead of the De Kalb, and closed the column, having the three transports immediately before her. The most of the gunboats had already doubled the tongue of land which stretches in front of Vicksburg when there was a flash from the enemy's upper batteries, and then for an hour and a half the cannonade was terrific, raging incessantly along the line of about 4 miles in extent. I counted five hundred and twenty-five discharges, while early in the action the enemy lit a bonfire in front of Vicksburg to light up the scene and direct his fire.

About 12.45 a. m. a steamer, which proved to be the Henry Clay, also took fire and burned for three-quarters of an hour, but I rejoice to report this was the only vessel we lost; that the gunboats all passed down uninjured, the Benton alone of the squadron being hit, and she only by a single ball, which killed 1 man and wounded 3 others. Not another gunboat was touched, and only one hit (the Forest Queen, transport), and this did her no serious damage. The Henry Clay was lost by being abandoned by her captain and crew in a panic, they thinking her to be sinking. The pilot refused to go with them, and said if they would stay they would get her through safely. After they had fled in the yawls, the cotton bales on her deck took fire, and one wheel became unmanageable. The pilot then ran her aground, and got upon a plank, on which he was picked up 4 miles below. I have the facts from an officer of Quinby's division. Sherman was aboard the Benton after she had got through. The substance of his personal statement will be forwarded by General Grant to General Halleck along with this dispatch, and will correct any errors in my report.

Our new batteries were ordered to open on the public buildings of Vicksburg at daylight this morning. McPherson arrived here last night with Logan's division. General Grant is just starting for New Carthage. I go with him.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, *April* 20, 1863.
(Received April 24.)

General Grant went to New Carthage on the 17th, returning on the 18th. Found Admiral Porter's squadron there, all in fighting condition,

though most of them had been hit yesterday, with Silver Wave (transport). Forest Queen (transport) had her steam drum broken under Vicksburg batteries, and was left above Warrenton, but has been repaired, and was brought down at 2 o'clock this morning. Admiral Porter reports no batteries at Warrenton, but some 10 or 12 pounder guns, which feebly answered his fire. No one was killed in passing Vicksburg; man supposed killed was only stunned. J. S. Bowen, commanding at Grand Gulf, has sent over three regiments to dislodge Osterhaus from New Carthage. His outposts were near ours, and there had been some ineffectual cannonading on the levee, the only point of approach by land.

On morning of 17th, before Admiral Porter arrived, a rebel steamer appeared just below New Carthage, but did not stay. On afternoon of 17th, Admiral Porter sent the Tuscumbia to shell out Bowen's camp, about 2 miles below Carthage. Whether Bowen had succeeded in getting his force back to Grand Gulf is unknown.

Admiral Porter sent Louisville (gunboat) down the Mississippi on morning of 18th, but we have received no news from there since. General McClernand has his headquarters on Mrs. Smith's plantation, on Roundaway Bayou, opposite the entrance of Bayou Vidal, about 3 miles from New Carthage. Osterhaus' division is mainly encamped there. Hovey's, Carr's, and A. J. Smith's lie along the road, Smith's holding the rear at Holmes' plantation, about 8 miles from Mr. Forsyth's. The levee along the Bayou Vidal is badly broken in three places, and the whole country between Roundaway and Mississippi being overflowed, troops can only be moved to New Carthage by water. General McClernand has constructed a number of scows, using for the purpose a fine saw-mill on Holmes' plantation, and with these and a few yawls he is hard at work transporting troops and supplies to New Carthage. By the same means, as well as by a scanty wagon train, somewhat increased by the ox-wagons of the country, he is transporting supplies down from Richmond.

On the 18th he was about to try and get the Silver Wave (transport) up Bayou Vidal, but a letter from him, written on the evening of that day, does not report that he has succeeded. It is probable that some dredging will be required at the mouth of that bayou before it will be accessible to any but very small steamers. Pride's cut-off is constantly worked at with much energy, but the engineers differ in opinion as to when loaded barges can get through it. Two small steamers, with barges carrying pioneers with tools, have this morning passed through the canal into Walnut Bayou, and Pride thinks that within three days he will steam to New Carthage, but Lieut. Col. J. H. Wilson, topographical engineer, thinks it will take a fortnight. The wagon road hence to Smith's plantation is in very good condition, and not likely to be overflowed. This road, as well as Pride's cut-off, is now protected against inroads of the enemy by overflow of the country toward the Tensas. The strip of dry land between the two lines of water is nowhere more than 3 miles wide.

Six transport steamers are being repaired to run Vicksburg batteries, viz, Tigress (side-wheeler), Anglo-Saxon, Cheeseman, Moderator, Horizon, and Empire City, all stern-wheelers; none of them less than 500 tons. Each will carry one hundred thousand rations in her hold and forty days' coal. They will hardly be ready before to-morrow night. As soon as they have gone down, General Grant will move his headquarters to New Carthage, and the attack on Grand Gulf will be made as soon as 8,000 troops can be embarked, but this will be delayed by

difficulty of moving down Bayou Vidal. General Grant now seems inclined to direct this attack himself, and to leave McClernand to hold this place, while, with the bulk of McClernand's and McPherson's corps, he himself goes down to Port Hudson, for which, he thinks, 20,000 troops will suffice. J. McArthur's division has not yet arrived here. The last of Logan's came yesterday. Quinby being sick, General Grant tells me J. C. Sullivan will take his division. From our batteries of 30-pounder Parrotts on levee opposite Vicksburg 250 rounds have been fired, mainly at railroad depot, without apparent effect. They are firing to-day at the court-house used by the enemy as a signal station. It is a mile farther than the depot. General Grant talks of building a team-road hence to New Carthage, for use in case the canal is left dry by falling of the Mississippi. He proposes to use the iron on the Vicksburg and Shreveport Railroad.

A very trustworthy spy of General Grant tells him that there are in Mississippi agents of secret organizations in Southern Indiana and Illinois, who report that they are armed and ready for insurrection. Officers in this army, who, three months ago, told me they would never serve along with negro regiments, now say that Adjutant-General Thomas makes bad speeches to troops, but that they shall obey orders, nevertheless.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, *April* 22, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, *April* 25.

Yours of the 16th was received yesterday. Its direction shall be scrupulously observed even in extreme cases. The fleet of six transports could not be gotten ready to run the Vicksburg batteries, but are now prepared and go to-night. They are manned throughout—officers, engineers, pilots, and deck hands—by volunteers from the army, mainly from Logan's division. This service was sought with great eagerness, and experienced men have been found for every post. If 10,000 men had been wanted instead of 150, they would have been zealously supplied. In addition to bulwarks of hay, cotton, and beef barrels, each transport is protected by a barge on each side of it. Orders are to drop noiselessly down with the current from mouth of Yazoo, and not show steam till batteries begin firing, when they are to use all their legs. The sky is now cloudy, and a very favorable night is promised.

No dispatches from McClernand. Admiral Porter reports to General Grant that McClernand has succeeded in getting a transport up Bayou Vidal to Smith's plantation, so that he can move his troops down to New Carthage with some rapidity. Admiral Porter has found a mouth to Bayou Vidal which has 15 feet of water, and with but few trees to be removed, and even those do not prevent, though they hinder, navigation. Admiral Porter does not report any important reconnaissance down the river, or say that he has done anything to prevent Bowen's return to Grand Gulf. G. G. Pride has got two small transports and some barges through his canal into the bayou, and thinks they must have reached Richmond by last evening. At the mouth of the canal the depth of water is now 15 feet, and at its entrance into the bayou 6 feet. Four dredges work day and night deepening the channel, but some alarm is felt at the report of a sudden and unexpected fall of the Mississippi at Memphis and above. A fall of 15 feet, which is rumored

to have occurred at Memphis, would leave the canal without water. There would still be water in the bayou, which can be made navigable for barges throughout the summer, and commissary stores and ammunition would have to be wagoned for a few miles only, but coal for the gunboats and transports would have to be drifted down past Vicksburg. Such a fall of water would also deprive the line of the protection of the flood from the Tensas, which it now enjoys. If the six transports get down to-night, General Grant moves his headquarters to New Carthage to-morrow, and I go with him.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

SMITH'S PLANTATION, NEAR NEW CARTHAGE,
April 24, 1863—3 p. m.

General Grant arrived here last night, and has now gone down with Admiral Porter to reconnoiter Grand Gulf. Admiral Porter was there on the 22d instant, and by opening fire ascertained the position and strength of the batteries. There are four distinct works stretched along the height on the Mississippi shore, each armed with three guns, and a new work is being built in the rear, which, as Admiral Porter learned from some gentlemen whom he saw, and who had just been there, is to be mounted with one large gun. The works along the brow of the bluff are provided with rifle-pits in front, and the strongest of them, which is the second in order, is connected by a covered way with those below it, and with the new one in the rear. The enemy have been zealously working and strengthening their works and to re-enforce the garrison, which Admiral Porter now estimates at 12,000. He earnestly advises against a front attack, and proposes that the troops be either marched across from Perkins' plantation, where Osterhaus' division is now encamped, to a point where they can be ferried over, just below the place, or that they be embarked on the transports and barges and floated past the Grand Gulf batteries in the night. It is now probable that the former course will be adopted.

The transports which ran the Vicksburg batteries on the night of the 22d now lie at New Carthage, with the exception of the Tigress, which was sunk. The five which escaped have mainly been repaired by zealous exertion of Admiral Porter, and will be ready for use to-morrow. The loss by their running the Vicksburg batteries is 2 men seriously and half a dozen slightly wounded. Of McClernand's corps 10,000 will be ready to move from New Carthage to-morrow. McPherson's corps is moving over from Milliken's Bend, with the exception of McArthur's division, not yet arrived from Providence. Of Sherman's corps all are under marching orders hither, Steele's division being constantly expected from Greenville. General Grant has directed that two regiments from each army corps shall remain to guard the line between here and Milliken's Bend, but if the water falls so as to leave the canal dry and to uncover the country on both sides of the road, it will require for that duty a division at least. The fall of the river, previously reported, still continues. None of the steamers or barges from Milliken's Bend have yet got through to this point, though as we came along the bayou yesterday we saw the working parties industriously employed clearing out the trees. It is now most probable that the road will be the chief avenue of transportation.

The weather is hot, but the troops are in high spirits at the prospect of fighting.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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SMITH'S PLANTATION, *April* 25, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 29.

General Grant's reconnaissance at Grand Gulf has convinced him that the place is not as strong as Admiral Porter supposed, and as I yesterday reported. The key to the position is the first bluff approached in descending the Mississippi River. The enemy are fortifying, but have no guns there yet. The shell of the gunboats yesterday drove the men from the newly begun works, but drew no firing in reply. It is accordingly determined that the attack shall be made by the gunboats, and that the troops shall land at the foot of this bluff as soon as the batteries there, if any should finally be found, and at the other commanding points along the shore, are silenced. This will take place to-morrow or next day—just as soon as troops can be gotten ready. I am sorry to report that there is much apparent confusion in McClernand's command, especially about his staff and headquarters, and that the movement is delayed to some extent by that cause. Though it is ordered that officers' horses and tents must be left behind, McClernand carries his bride along with him.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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SMITH'S PLANTATION, *April* 27, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 2—10 p. m.
(Received May 4—6 p. m.)

The movement against Grand Gulf is still delayed. General Grant went by water yesterday down to New Carthage and Perkins' plantation, just beyond New Carthage, where Osterhaus and E. A. Carr are encamped, to order the immediate embarkation of the troops. The seven transports were all in good working order, except the Anglo-Saxon, whose broken stern-wheel was being repaired, and was finished night before last, and which transport might at any time have been towed. On these transports 7,000 troops could have been embarked, with artillery and ammunition, while the barges at hand and ready for use could easily have carried 5,000 more. The first thing which struck us on approaching the points of embarkation was that the steamboats and barges were scattered about in the river and in the bayou as if there were no idea of the imperative necessity of the promptest possible movements.

We arrived at Admiral Porter's flag-ship, above Grand Gulf, and General Grant at once sent for General McClernand, discussed with him the point of attack, and ordered him to embark his men without losing a moment. Osterhaus and Carr were then encamped at Perkins' plantation, and full half of A. J. Smith's division were with Smith at New Carthage, the other half being still at Smith's plantation awaiting transportation, the steamboat that was to carry them having only made one trip the day before instead of two, as she might have done, had General Grant's orders been obeyed, by leaving behind officers' horses and bag-

gage; this boat was also somewhat delayed by carrying General McClernand's wife, with her servants and baggage. But though the whole of A. J. Smith's troops had not yet arrived, and though Hovey's division, encamped at the junction of Bayou Vidal and Bayou Gilbert, and ordered to march to Perkins' by land, the bayous having been bridged, was also still absent, there were already encamped at the points of embarkation quite as many troops as all the transports could carry. Still, at dark last night, when a thunder-storm set in, not a single man or cannon had been embarked. Instead of this, McClernand held a review of a brigade of Illinois troops at Perkins' about 4 p. m., when Governor Yates made a speech. At the same time a salute of artillery was fired, notwithstanding that positive orders had repeatedly been given to use no ammunition for any purpose except against the enemy. What course General Grant will take under these circumstances I have no idea, as I have had no opportunity of conversing with him since yesterday forenoon.

McPherson arrived here last night with Quinby's division, McArthur's, forming his rear, being at Richmond. His whole corps would have been here to-day, but its movements have been arrested until General McClernand's can be got out of the way. General Thomas told me this morning that he had no doubt that McPherson's corps could now be embarked sooner than General McClernand's. General Grant proposed to Admiral Porter yesterday to make a feint attack against Vicksburg at Haynes' or Snyder's Bluffs. I believe the feint was not decided on. General Grant also asked Admiral Porter to send a gunboat up the Big Black to prevent the rebels from completing scows at a ferry some 5 miles above Grand Gulf, but Admiral Porter declined because it was too risky.

From Milliken's Bend we hear that there is now only 6 inches of water in Pride's canal at the point where it embouches in the bayou. The dredges are at work, but whether they can dig as fast as the river falls is a question. The boats and barges previously got into the bayou will get through, however. The road hence to Milliken's Bend is somewhat injured by last night's rain and cut up by wagons, but can be depended on for transportation unless we should have very heavy storms. If they should come upon us as unexpectedly as the fall of the river has done, the army will be in straits.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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HARD TIMES LANDING, LA., *April* 29, 1863—5 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 5—11 a. m.
(Received May 8—2.45 p. m.)

My last dispatch was dated on April 27. On the morning of that day General Grant went from Smith's plantation down to New Carthage and wrote to McClernand a very severe letter, which he did not send on discovering that at last the transport steamers and barges had during the previous night been concentrated for use. He spent the day there in completing the preparations for embarking, and on the morning of the 28th the divisions of Osterhaus and Carr were embarked, in all a little more than 10,000 troops. This force not being deemed sufficient for the attack on Grand Gulf, the troops were brought down to this place, and Carr's men and part of Osterhaus' debarked in order that

part of the transports might return for the division of Hovey—6,000 strong. They did not get here until daylight this morning, when the troops being ready to land as soon as the batteries were silenced, the gunboats opened the attack at 8 a. m. precisely. Seven gunboats, all iron-clads, were engaged. The Price was kept out of the fight, being employed to tow the Anglo-Saxon (steamboat), whose wheel, damaged by running the Vicksburg batteries, it had been impossible to repair.

It was found that the enemy had five batteries, the first and most formidable of them being placed on the high promontory next to the *embouchure* of the Big Black. In this battery there were four guns, of which, after a constant fire of five hours from the gunboats, only one has been dismounted. The work is placed in a shoulder of the hill about 30 feet above the river. It is entirely open, protected only by a parapet, behind which the heads of the gunners can be seen as they load their pieces. These, as Captain [James A.] Greer, of the gunboat Benton, informs me, are 100-pounder rifles. The lower batteries, mounting smaller guns and having no more than two pieces each, were silenced early in the action, but this one obstinately resisted to the last, the gunboats finally withdrawing at about 1.30 p. m. For the last four hours the whole seven were employed in firing at this one, now at long range, seeking to drop shells within the parapet, now at the very foot of the hill, within about 200 yards, seeking to dismount its guns by direct fire. It was hit again and again, but its pieces had not been disabled when Admiral Porter gave the signal to withdraw. There was some reason to believe that it was short of ammunition, but this could not be certainly known. The gunboats were hit more or less severely. I was on board the Benton, and saw that her armor had repeatedly been pierced both in her sides and her pilot-house, but she had not a gun disabled, and, except the holes through her mail (some of them in her hull), was as ready to fight as at the beginning of the action. Of the other vessels, the Tuscumbia had her hog-chains cut, but the others are reported as substantially uninjured. The Mound City received but three hits. On the Benton, 7 men were killed and a few wounded. The other casualties are not yet reported. The Lafayette remains under the fort, and firing is still kept up occasionally.

The batteries having thus proved too much for the gunboats, General Grant determined to execute an alternative plan, which he had in mind from the first, and accordingly had the troops all to disembark from transports and march across the neck of land in front of Grand Gulf, distance 1½ miles, to a point below, out of range of its guns. The transports are to be run past the batteries as soon as it is dark, under cover of a renewed attack from the gunboats. The troops will then be embarked, and either landed at Grand Gulf, just below the batteries, or else carried down to Rodney and marched into the rear of Grand Gulf by way of Port Gibson. I judge the latter move will be adopted. General Grant, however, is in favor of a direct assault on Grand Gulf. The whole of the Thirteenth Army Corps is now here, A. J. Smith's division having arrived by land, marching around Saint Joseph's Lake. Of the Seventeenth Corps, Logan's division has also arrived by the same road, while Quinby's is close at hand, and McArthur's will be at the place of embarkation before morning.

There can be no difficulty in throwing 35,000 troops across the river into Rodney before morning of May 1. The enemy have about 10,000 troops in Grand Gulf. The weather continues fine. General Thomas is here assisting General Grant as much as possible.

I have to report that the paymasters have finished their work and gone, and henceforth any shrewd person can see that I am not attending to their transactions.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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DISHROON'S PLANTATION, *April* 29, 1863—11.30 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 5—9.30 a. m.
(Received May 8—6 p. m.)

The gunboats and transports came safely through from Hard Times Landing this evening. The batteries at Grand Gulf were nearly as active as in the morning, and Admiral Porter thinks that in one of the lower batteries a large gun had been mounted during the afternoon. No harm was received in the passage either by boats or men. General McClernand's corps are all ready to embark, but it seems to me doubtful whether they will get on board before daylight, though General Grant has given the most urgent orders. They will land above Rodney, just below the mouth of Bayou Pierre. The casualties on the fleet to-day have been 22 killed and 55 wounded.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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DISHROON'S PLANTATION, *April* 30, 1863—2 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 4—7 p. m.
(Received May 8—4.10 p. m.)

The divisions of Carr, Hovey, and Osterhaus were landed safely without opposition at Bruinsburg, Miss., at the mouth of Bayou Pierre, at 11 a. m. to-day. The divisions of A. J. Smith and Logan are now embarking and will be landed before night. All seems now to be going on well, though had any other general than McClernand held the advance, the landing would certainly have been effected at daylight.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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GRAND GULF, *May* 4, 1863.
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 9—11.30 a. m.

My information from the front this morning is that Logan occupied the ferry across the Big Black, on the principal road hence to Vicksburg, at Lynax's yesterday. He had a brief skirmish there and took 100 prisoners, including those picked up by him in his march during the afternoon.

General Grant left him for the front at 1 a. m. this morning. He has ordered up from Milliken's Bend 120 wagons loaded with hard bread, coffee, sugar, and salt, to come via Perkins' and this place; four hundred thousand rations similarly constituted are to run the Vicksburg batteries. Of Sherman's corps, the three divisions of Steele, Tuttle, and Blair should begin to arrive here to-day, having moved from Young's Point on the 1st instant.

The Sixth Missouri Cavalry, for some weeks employed on the Louisiana side, disembarked here and at Bruinsburg this morning, and will

reach the front by to-morrow morning. The colonel tells me that he has just come back from a raid down the river on that side to within 20 miles of Natchez; that he has taken 100 prisoners, mainly of Harrison's cavalry, and brought back large numbers of mules and horses. General Grant intends to lose no time in pushing his army toward the Big Black Bridge and Jackson, threatening both and striking at either, as is most convenient. As soon as Sherman comes up and the rations on the way arrive, he will disregard his base and depend on the country for meat and even for bread. Beef-cattle and corn are both abundant everywhere.

The enemy is not suffering for want in the least; the prisoners captured are also well clothed and provided with blankets. Their arms and their stores are both good. General Grant is of the opinion that Pemberton will endeavor to bring on the decisive battle within the next ten days.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *May* 5, 1863.

C. A. DANA,
Smith's Plantation, or Grant's Headquarters, via Memphis:

General Grant has full and absolute authority to enforce his own commands, and to remove any person who, by ignorance, inaction, or any cause, interferes with or delays his operations. He has the full confidence of the Government, is expected to enforce his authority, and will be firmly and heartily supported; but he will be responsible for any failure to exert his powers. You may communicate this to him.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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HANKINSON'S FERRY, *May* 5, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 18—11 a. m.

Enemy had built a bridge of flat-boats across the Big Black at this point. Logan pressed upon them so hard in his pursuit that they were not able to destroy it. It is reported by our pickets that they have two brigades in our front on the other shore, and McPherson is going over this morning with a competent force to stir them up. But for the exceeding incompetency of General McClernand, and the delay thence arising, the movement from Bruinsburg in this direction must have resulted in the capture of 5,000 instead of about 700 rebels. A tug with barges ran the Vicksburg batteries on Sunday night, the 3d instant. The hay with which the loading of the barges was covered was set on fire, and the hard bread beneath was considerably damaged by water in putting it out, but yesterday 200 wagons loaded with rations arrived from Milliken's Bend at Perkins' plantation. As soon as these supplies reach here and Sherman's troops arrive, the general advance up this peninsula will be resumed. Sherman himself was at Grand Gulf yesterday, and two of his divisions will debark there to-day. The army here is distributed across the peninsula, guarding every point. General McClernand is on the right center; McPherson here on the left. A reconnaissance pushed as far as Rocky Springs and in the vicinity of the ferry on the Vicksburg road discovers no enemy. Please notice that in my dispatch

of yesterday I was misinformed as to Logan's movement of the evening previous. It was on the Warrenton and not the Vicksburg road. The army is thoroughly recovered from the fatigue of the late operations.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

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ROCKY SPRINGS, MISS., *May* 8, 1863—9 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 14—3.30 p. m.

General Grant advanced his headquarters about 5 miles to this place yesterday. The relative position of the different divisions remains generally as in my last dispatch. General Sherman's forces have not yet come up, and the old division of Quinby, now under M. M. Crocker, remains to guard Hankinson's Ferry. As soon as it is relieved by Sherman's advance, McPherson will move his corps in the direction of Raymond. No doubt this movement will commence to-day. The advance of Osterhaus is at Hall's Ferry, and he reports that enemy have batteries posted on the other side of Big Black River. From the Sixth Missouri Cavalry (sent day before yesterday back to Port Gibson) we heard last night that enemy were pressing them. Col. C. Wright saw two regiments, which he was holding in check at Port Gibson Bridge. Contrabands told him that they were part of the forces from Port Hudson. The ammunition and subsistence have begun to arrive from Grand Gulf, and it is expected that the necessary supplies will have come up before to-morrow night. From Milliken's Bend we have a report from Colonel Prime, chief engineer, that the proposed shorter road across the peninsula opposite Vicksburg will not do. He says a *crevasse* is in the way which cannot be got over.

The weather is cool and splendid.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

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HEADQUARTERS ROCKY SPRINGS, MISS., *May* 1 [10?], 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 18.

All our reports from the front favorable. McPherson reached yesterday, with the cavalry of his advance, a point 5 miles beyond Utica, meeting a reconnaissance of the enemy, which retired. McClernand moved on the main road to Edwards Station. Sherman reached this place with Tuttle's division and Hankinson's Ferry with Steele's. To-day Sherman will destroy the bridge at that ferry and push forward his whole force to Auburn, having Raymond as his destination. McPherson and McClernand each move from 5 to 7 miles, so that by to-night our line will rest at 10 to 12 miles from Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad. Unless enemy attacks, no battle will probably occur for two or three days. Leaving, therefore, Blair's and McArthur's brigades to come up, General Grant moves his headquarters this morning to Auburn. The trains with ammunition and subsistence are coming up well. Grand Gulf is to be garrisoned by a brigade of J. McArthur's until J. G. Lauman arrives there, when one of the latter's brigades will form a permanent garrison. The reports respecting a short road from Milliken's Bend to below Warrenton are contradictory, but J. C. Sullivan, left in command of the line, writes that it would be finished for use last night.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 23, 1863—11.30 a. m.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

The following dispatch has just been received at these headquarters, and is forwarded as requested:

REAR OF VICKSBURG, *May* 20, 1863—6 a. m.

General Grant has won a great and momentous victory over the rebels under Pemberton, on the Jackson and Vicksburg road, at Baker's Creek, on the 16th instant. Pemberton had a most formidable position on the crest of a wooded hill, over which the road passes longitudinally. He had above 25,000 men. The battle began at 11 a. m. and was gained at 4 p. m. Its brunt was borne by Hovey's division, of McClernand's corps, and by Logan's and Crocker's [division], of McPherson's. Hovey attacked the hill, and held a great part of it till 2 p. m., when, having lost 1,600 men, he was succeeded by Boomer's and Holmes' brigades, of Crocker's division, by which the conflict was ended in that part of the field. Boomer lost 500 men. Logan operated on the right, and cut off the enemy's direct retreat, so that he was compelled to escape by his right flank through the woods. Logan lost 400 killed and wounded. We took about 2,000 prisoners.

On the 17th, advancing to the Big Black, we fought Pemberton again at his bridge head, and captured 3,000 more prisoners. He fought in rifle-pits, protected by a difficult bayou full of abatis. Lawler's brigade, of McClernand's corps, charged the rifle-pits magnificently, and took more prisoners than their own numbers. Pemberton burned his bridge, and returned to Vicksburg with only three cannon out of sixty that he had taken out.

Building four bridges over the Big Black, General Grant arrived before the town on the evening of the 18th, and now holds it closely invested. He had opened a line of supplies via Chickasaw Bayou, having cut the town off from Haynes' Bluff, which is abandoned by the enemy, and which General Grant will occupy. There was sharp fighting through the day yesterday. Steele won, and holds the upper bluffs and the enemy's upper water batteries, and gets water from the Mississippi.

Sherman's corps lost yesterday 500 killed and wounded. McPherson, who holds the center, lost little, as did McClernand, who holds the left.

The gunboats kept the enemy alert during the night, and probably the town will be carried to-day. There are from 15,000 to 20,000 men in it. Pemberton fights with the greater obstinacy, because his people believe he has sold their cause. Joe Johnston went into the town, but we have not heard of him since.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, *May* 23, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 29—3 p. m.
(Received June 1—3.50 a. m.)

The town was assaulted yesterday. The order required the columns to move by every road at 10 a. m. precisely, but they did not all get started at the same hour. The attempt failed, but without heavy loss. At 2 p. m. McClernand reported that he was in possession of two forts of the rebel line, was hard pressed, and in great need of re-enforcements. Not doubting that he had really succeeded in taking and holding the works he pretended to hold, General Grant ordered J. G. Lauman's division, of McPherson's corps, to his support, and at the same time McPherson and Sherman both made new attacks. McClernand's report was false, as he held not a single fort, and the result was disastrous. Lauman's division was pushed by McClernand to his front and suffered heavily. Col. G. B. Boomer, Twenty-sixth Missouri, among the killed.

Ransom's brigade, on McPherson's right, lost 25 per cent. of its strength, including Cols. G. Nevins and T. W. Humphrey killed, and

Stevenson's brigade lost some 300, including Col. J. J. Dollins killed. Sherman told me he had lost about 500, including Major [D. T.] Kirby, Eighth Missouri, who led a forlorn hope of 150 men, none of whom came back. The loss of the day in killed and wounded will probably not fall short of 1,500, though but for McClernand's mistake it would have been inconsiderable.

Our position was somewhat though not much improved by the day's operations. Sherman had at night two brigades sheltered by the front of the enemy's parapets. McPherson had gained the opportunity of mining a salient of the principal rebel fort.

Notwithstanding this repulse, involving the necessity of a more protracted investment, there is no doubt of the final result. Nothing can save the town except the arrival of heavy re-enforcements. To bring these up will be difficult unless force is withdrawn from before General Rosecrans.

The Warrenton road, which alone had been left open, was closed yesterday by McArthur with one brigade. He will be strengthened to-day and enabled to advance, so as to touch McClernand on his right; then the town will be absolutely inclosed. Our army is in the best of spirits, though impatient at the delays. Twenty-five thousand troops of General Banks' forces are on the way hither from Red River, and should arrive to-morrow at furthest. Of Joe Johnston we have no further intelligence, except that it is certain he is not in the town, and has probably gone east. Pemberton is sick, and his command is exercised by S. D. Lee. The garrison is apparently short of ammunition. Of this we took from them six railroad-car loads at Edwards Depot, and they destroyed four loads to prevent their falling into our hands.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *May* 24, 1863—7 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 29—6 p. m.
(Received June 1—3 a. m.)

Your dispatch of the 5th instant was received at Jackson and communicated to General Grant according to your direction. Yesterday morning he had determined to relieve General McClernand, on account of his false dispatch of the day before stating that he held two of the enemy's forts, but he changed his mind, concluding that it would be better on the whole to leave McClernand in his present command till the siege of Vicksburg is concluded, after which he will induce McClernand to ask for leave of absence. Meanwhile he (General Grant) will especially supervise all of McClernand's operations, and will place no reliance on his reports unless otherwise corroborated. My own judgment is that McClernand has not the qualities necessary for a good commander, even of a regiment. The siege operations were energetically pushed yesterday and last night. McPherson holds, by nature of the ground in his front and the great advance of his line of sharpshooters, the position nearest the rebel works; in fact, he yesterday had a battery planted within 50 yards of one of their most important forts, and the rebels' guns were entirely prevented by his sharpshooters from returning the fire of this battery. Last evening he opened a mine under one of the salients of the work, and Capt. S. R. Tresilian, engineer in charge, reported that he would be ready to blow it up at 8 o'clock this morning. It is uncertain whether the rebels have not another height within that

on which this part stands from which they will still be able to dispute McPherson's entrance into the city, but its possession will certainly enable him to reach with his batteries almost every part of the place. The rebel infantry now lie securely on the slope in the rear of this fort, whence they are able to repel any effort of our infantry to get over its parapet. On Sherman's front we are at a greater distance from the enemy, the approach being naturally less advantageous to us. General Sherman told me last evening that he must advance for a considerable part of the way toward the principal fort in his front by a regular sap, and that it would be five days before he could blow up the salient he intends to undermine. It is thought that one of the best points of attack is on Sherman's extreme right, where Steele's division abuts on the Mississippi. With the co-operation of gunboats, the enemy's upper water battery can be silenced, which will enable Steele decisively to turn his left flank, but Porter is extremely cautious about exposing vessels to the fire of that battery. He has for some days been playing upon the town with his mortars, and promised to have fourteen of them in position this morning, but they are placed at such a distance on the Louisiana shore, being behind the tongue of land which stretches in front of the town, that their fire can hardly be very effective. They are, however, to be removed to this side under the lowest of the bluffs which Steele holds, where they will be equally secure, and at least 1½ miles nearer the enemy's works. The fortifications on the Warrenton road prove more formidable than was supposed, but probably the front of McClernand will be found to be more accessible than either that of Sherman or McPherson. From his engineer we have not yet received any report on this subject. Lauman has been ordered from Haynes' Bluff to the Warrenton road. He has eleven regiments, four of them having been brought with him down from Memphis. A body of cavalry will remain at Haynes' to observe the enemy in that direction. McArthur's division will take its proper position in McPherson's corps as soon as Lauman reaches his new post. One thousand cavalry have been sent north to dispose of bridges over Big Black on the Memphis and Jackson Railroad, and to burn corn and forage in the Yazoo region, so as to impede the possible approach of enemy. General Banks has decided to attack Port Hudson at once instead of moving hither. He has taken for the purpose the transports sent him by General Grant.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, *May* 26, 1863—1 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *May* 29—10 a. m.
(Received May 30—10.30 p. m.)

The situation has not essentially altered since my last dispatch. Sherman has pushed the siege works in front of his center with great energy and admirable skill, and might to-morrow plant his guns within 50 yards of the fortifications and clear them out for an assault, but he has not yet got near enough to commence mining. On his right, where Steele commands, the opportunity is still exceedingly favorable, but Porter has not yet consented to bring a gunboat near enough for effective co-operation. McPherson's mining operations have proved much more difficult than his engineers first calculated, and it must still be some time before the work he is digging at can be blown up. On McClernand's

front, where the approaches are naturally most favorable to us and the enemy's line of works evidently much the weakest, nothing in the way of siege operations had been accomplished when I was there last evening. Lieutenant-Colonel Powell, whom General Grant sent to examine the line, reported that McClernand's artillery was in good position and effectively distributed.

Pemberton sent a flag at 4 p. m. yesterday, asking for a truce of two hours and a half to bury the dead. The bodies of our men fell about his works last Friday, and whom we have not been able to bring off evidently caused his garrison great annoyance by their odor. He probably also hoped to gain information. The truce was had and the dead buried. Deserters from the town state uniformly that supplies of food and ammunition are short. Thirty days is the limit during which they say Pemberton may hold out. His officers with the flag yesterday loudly declared that they had provisions for six months. General Grant was determined to fortify Haynes' Bluff on the land side against any possible attack. Troops have been sent to important points in that quarter to guard against the contingency of the enemy coming in. We have, however, no information to cause the fear of such an event happening immediately; but allow me earnestly to urge the necessity of putting a force here at once which will render futile all attempts to raise this siege. This town must fall unless the enemy bring troops in great numbers from the east and southeast, and that should be provided against. It is an incomparable position as regards the health and comfort of our men. These high, wooded hills afford pure air and shade, the deep ravines abound in springs of excellent water, and if they should fail it can easily be brought from the Mississippi. General Grant last night sent a staff officer to General Banks, urging him to bring his forces here as promptly as practicable, and assuring him that he (Grant) would gladly serve under him as his superior in rank, or simply co-operate with him for the benefit of the common cause, if he should prefer that course.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *May* 27, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 3.

The cavalry sent out a few days since found a body of enemy about 30 miles northeast of Haynes' Bluff, and returned without having effected their purpose. General Grant had determined to clear the country in that direction; yesterday sent out three brigades of McPherson's corps under McArthur and three of Sherman's under Mower, the whole commanded by F. P. Blair, to disperse rebels, who are 6,000 to 8,000, commanded by W. H. T. Walker, and to devastate the region, so that an army must carry all its supplies in order to pass through it. The forces marched hence just after dusk, without wagons. Deserters who came in yesterday from different parts of the city agree in the statement that the garrison is on quarter rations. About 9 cubic inches of corn bread and one-quarter pound of boiled fresh beef served at 8 p. m. is their daily food. They are kept in the trenches without relief. The reserve consists of one brigade and a half only. Deserters differ as to the supply of ammunition, some saying there is plenty, others that it is scarce. According to them all, a majority of the privates wish to surrender the place, but the officers are determined to fight to the last. Our engineers

say the rebel lines are about 5½ miles long, containing from thirty-three to thirty-five forts connected by rifle-pits. The garrison we now believe consists of 20,000 to 25,000 men; their hospitals crowded.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *May* 28, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, *May* 30—9 p. m.
(Received June 1—3.15 a. m.)

The siege works progress satisfactorily. Sherman has his parallels completed to within 80 yards of the rebel fortifications. He is able to carry artillery and wagons with horses under cover to that point. McPherson's rifle-pits are at about the same distance from the forts in his front. On both these lines our sharpshooters keep the rebels under cover and never allow them to load a cannon. It is a mistake to say that the place is entirely invested. I made the complete circuit of the lines yesterday. The left is open in direction of Warrenton, so that the enemy have no difficulty in sending messengers in and out. Our force is not large enough to occupy the whole line and keep the necessary reserves and outposts at dangerous and important points; still, the enemy cannot either escape by that route or receive supplies.

An officer who returned yesterday from a visit to Jackson with a flag of truce to take supplies to our wounded, found Loring there with his force, apparently reorganizing and ready for movement. The number he could not ascertain, but thought it was 5,000 at least. Loring, you may remember, escaped to the southeast with his division after the battle of Baker's Creek.

The gunboat Cincinnati was disabled yesterday in a sharp engagement with the enemy's upper water battery, on Steele's front. She was compelled by discharges of grape to close her bow port-holes, and in endeavoring to get away, swung her stern around toward the battery, when she was so badly hit that her commander ran her ashore, and she sank in shoal water. Some twenty-odd lives were lost. She may be raised and saved.

The weather is hot, but not at all oppressive.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *May* 30, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 3—9 p. m.
(Received June 4—3.35 a. m.)

We have from Blair reports, which come to him on his march, that Joe Johnston is at Canton with a force of 45,000 men, said to consist of W. H. T. Walker's division, being division which escaped in disorder from the battle of Baker's Creek; 2,000 stragglers from other troops engaged in that battle, three divisions from Bragg's army, and a body from Mobile. These reports are undoubtedly exaggerated, but that Johnston is there, doing his best to collect and bring [forces] for the relief of Vicksburg, there is no question. General Grant has ordered Blair to return to Haynes' Bluff, without further exposing himself, but to devastate the country as he returns. All the roads from the Big Black hither, except the main one from the railroad bridge (where Osterhaus

is posted with a brigade), are being obstructed by felling trees and destroying bridges.

The siege is being pressed with all possible vigor. Sherman has a breaching battery of four 30-pounder Parrotts at work within 80 yards of the chief fort in his front. McPherson has his approaches within 50 yards, with a battery all ready for three similar guns, which will be in position to-day or to-morrow. A messenger from Pemberton to Johnston has come into our lines. His message was that the place could not hold out longer than the end of next week. The garrison is worn out, and the majority of it anxious to surrender.

General Grant having twice sent to General Banks for re-enforcements, and [they] not having yet made their appearance, I have consented, at his urgent desire, to go down and urge General Banks to furnish them at once.

I have thought it to be my duty to do everything that may obviate the possible necessity of raising the siege of Vicksburg. I expect to be back here by June 4.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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CHICKASAW BAYOU, *May* 31, 1863—12 m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 5—10.30 a. m.
(Received June 7—8 p. m.)

I have returned here on my way to General Grant's headquarters, having met his previous messenger to General Banks last night, on the Mississippi, above Grand Gulf. General Banks is investing Port Hudson, and declines to send any forces here. He opened his lines May 21, with 12,000 men, and on the 27th assaulted the place ineffectually, losing 1,000 killed and wounded. He has ordered up 4,000 more troops from his forces below, which will make his force 15,000, and desires that General Grant should also send him re-enforcements. Grierson's cavalry, which General Grant pressingly needs, General Banks retains on the plea of necessity. He says that if he were to raise the siege, in order to help General Grant, he would still be unable to send him any more than 5,000 troops, as he must retain the bulk of his army there as long as Port Hudson is unsubdued. The number of the garrison he estimates at 6,000. Of their supplies of food and ammunition he knows nothing positively, and does not say how long he thinks it will require to reduce the place. I learn that Blair, with his two brigades, has arrived at Haynes' Bluff, in compliance with General Grant's order of day before yesterday. Of the news at General Grant's headquarters, nothing is known here.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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REAR OF VICKSBURG, *May* 31, 1863—4 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 3—3.30 p. m.

Blair reports that there is no rebel force between the Yazoo and the Big Black, and that Johnston has now at Canton only 18,000 men, and does not intend to move until he has 40,000. Blair confirms his own previous report that three divisions have been withdrawn by Johnston from the army opposed to General Rosecrans, but these three divisions

have not yet reported at Canton. This tallies with General Grant's information from other sources. Johnston says that he shall have his 40,000 in time to save Vicksburg.

Pardon me for again urging that re-enforcements be at once sent here from Tennessee, Kentucky, or Missouri in numbers sufficient to put our success beyond all peradventure. The same messenger who bears this to Memphis bears also General Grant's orders for 7,000 men from Hurlbut's forces to be sent here at once; but this will not meet all the requirements of the case. Our position here is infinitely more secure and the result incomparably more certain than our position and its result at Corinth last year. The place is far more important. Its ultimate possession ought to be assured by all the means in our power. Better retreat to Nashville than retreat from the hills of Vicksburg.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 3, 1863—8 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 6—Noon.
(Received June 7—6.15 p. m.)

The expeditionary corps under F. P. Blair, which has been resting for two days at Haynes' Bluff after its recent march of 90 miles in five days, will be back to-night, and will take its position on the extreme left of our investing lines, filling the space hitherto occupied by pickets of enemy between J. G. Lauman and the Mississippi. This will render the investment total, and as soon as the rifle-pits and field works are completed in that part of the line it will be impassable.

On the night of the 1st instant we had an alarm on McClernand's front, and it was supposed that the enemy were about to attempt a sally. Their attack on a pioneer company was soon repulsed, and they fell back. Our lines are now so strong from the extreme right around to McClernand's left, that 5,000 troops can hold them against any sortie.

General Grant has ordered heavy re-enforcements from Hurlbut's command. W. S. Smith's division, five brigades, 7,000 strong, N. Kimball, above 5,000, and from A. Asboth's command 5,000, are on their way. The first brigade of Kimball arrived here yesterday. The line between Dodge's left and Memphis will be confined to the shortest railroad, and should Joe Johnston, finding all lost at Vicksburg, make a sudden dash at Memphis, General Grant will have to rely on the vigilance of Hurlbut's cavalry and the rapidity of his own transport steamers to get re-enforcements there in season. The outpost here toward the northeast is at Mechanicsburg, 3 miles east of Satartia, where it is supplied by steamers. It consists of one brigade under J. A. Mower, with two cavalry regiments. The latter have again been sent out to attempt the northern railroad bridge over Big Black. All the roads by which the enemy can approach are being filled with every practicable obstruction. Of this last work much has already been well done.

All our reports keep Joe Johnston still at Canton. The siege works steadily progressing on the whole line. Those prosecuted with the least energy and the least intellectual effort are, I regret to say, those of General F. Steele. His inertia is surprising. His camps are also in very bad order and very dirty. I. F. Quinby leaves again to-day on account of sickness, and J. E. Smith takes his division.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 5, 1863—8 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 7—5 p. m.

The siege works progress steadily, though there is a deplorable lack of engineer officers. Of the half dozen of those in this army, one very valuable, sent from Rocky Springs about May 5 with dispatches to General Banks, has been retained by him just as he has retained Grierson's cavalry. The rebels in McPherson's and Sherman's front have strengthened their works within two days by building demi-lunes in front of their re-entrants. In Sherman's judgment, there is no evidence of their erecting new works in the rear of their original line. Our line and theirs must be in contact within three days. The expeditionary corps, under Blair's command, commenced its march yesterday morning to occupy fully the southern approaches to the city, but were called back about noon, and the brigades returned to their original divisions. This was a result of some new demonstrations of the enemy, thought to be indicative of a purpose to sally, and also of General Grant's unwillingness to scatter his troops. The cannonade from our whole line is now steadily maintained by night as well as by day. Some fifteen 8 and 9 inch Navy guns lent by Admiral Porter, with crews to fight them, are being put in position. General Grant is considering the subject of sudden attack in great force on the south, where there are no siege lines and where enemy expect nothing. From the drift of his remarks, however, I conclude he will not adopt the measure. Another brigade of N. Kimball's has arrived, and is now at Haynes' Bluff. Kimball has been ordered with his whole division to Mechanicsburg, to increase and to command the observing force previously sent there under Mower. Joe Johnston has sent some troops to Yazoo City, and appears to be occupying with small detachments the line thence to Canton. Admiral Porter's whole force of light steamers left for there yesterday evening. The rebels are reported to have several large transports up near Yazoo. No signs of any movement of Johnston on the lower line of Big Black. A body of guerrillas are troubling the leased plantations in Louisiana. J. C. Sullivan has been relieved of command there for inertia, and Dennis has gone to his place. Unfortunately, J. P. Hawkins is absent, sick, or General Grant would have given him the command. Two regiments of McClernand's have been sent over, and there are four colored regiments there, numbering about 2,500, armed but not disciplined. The fortifications at Haynes' Bluff advance with exceeding slowness for want of both engineers and laborers.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *June* 5, 1863.

C. A. DANA, Esq., *Grant's Headquarters, near Vicksburg:*

Your telegrams up to the 30th have been received. Everything in the power of this Government will be put forth to aid General Grant. The emergency is not underrated here. Your telegrams are a great obligation, and are looked for with deep interest. I cannot thank you as much as I feel for the service you are now rendering. You have been appointed an assistant adjutant-general, with rank of major, with liberty to report to General Grant, if he needs you. The appointment may be a protection to you. I shall expect daily reports, if possible.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 6, 1863—7 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 12—5 p. m.

Kimball reports from Mechanicsburg that on entering that place from Satartia day before yesterday, he found the enemy drawn up in line of battle. Attacked immediately, and drove him out. His cavalry were pursuing as he wrote. No other particulars. General Grant has just started for the place, deeming it necessary to examine the situation there himself. I go with him. The siege goes on steadily. Deserters all report short rations and divided councils within, a great part of the soldiers and all the citizens desiring to surrender.

They fired a good deal yesterday, having evidently received a new supply of caps.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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HAYNES' BLUFF, *June* 7, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 10.

On approaching to within 2 miles of Satartia last evening, we found that N. Kimball had retreated to Oak Ridge Post-Office, sending the commissary stores and baggage by the river to this place. The gunboats were also coming down, and General Grant returned here with them.

The reason of Kimball's movement appears to be an extraordinary fall in the Yazoo, which caused him to fear that his supplies might become insecure at Satartia. His affair on the 4th was but a small skirmish, in which he took some 40 prisoners, with no loss to himself, as I am informed from Kimball. We have no official report. A rebel deserter reports that General W. H. T. Walker is at Yazoo City with eight brigades, and that Joe Johnston is advancing from Canton to the Big Black with a large force.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 8, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 10—5 p. m.

I have just returned from the vicinity of Mechanicsburg, whither I went with a party of cavalry from Haynes' Bluff yesterday. There were no signs of any considerable force of the enemy, though Kimball had retreated from there the day before in a semi-panic. No doubt Johnston has moved some of his troops this side of the Big Black, but his main force yet stays at Canton. The idea of operating in that direction, both for devastation and for more direct military objects, General Grant has by no means abandoned. His intention has been to put C. C. Washburn in command there, but I now think he will send Sherman with a force of from 15,000 to 20,000 troops, including 2,500 cavalry. The country is like the rest of this peninsula—broken, wooded, unpopulous, with few streams. It still has many cattle, but the corn is pretty thoroughly cleared out. Johnston cannot move through it without bringing all his supplies with him.

Advices from Port Hudson to the 4th instant were brought yesterday by Col. J. Riggin, of General Grant's staff. The siege has not reached

a decisive point. General Banks thinks if he had 10,000 troops more he could reduce the place in a few days, but we have not facts enough to understand the grounds of this opinion. So far as it is possible to judge at this distance, a regular siege is as indispensable there as it is here. The reason General Banks gives for not co-operating with General Grant is that he could not spare more troops from his own army and still hold New Orleans safe against any possible attack; then he would, by giving up the siege, liberate the enemy to join Johnston.

Milliken's Bend and Young's Point were both attacked day before yesterday by a body of rebels reported at about 1,500. At Milliken's Bend the negro troops at first gave way, but hearing that those of their number who were captured were killed, they rallied with great fury and routed the enemy. The white troops at Young's Point also repulsed him decisively.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

REAR OF VICKSBURG, *June* 10, 1863—7 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 16—10.30 a. m.
(Received June 23—1.30 a. m.)

General Grant has finally sent Washburn to Haynes' Bluff, and he will direct operations there for the present. Joe Johnston, with his main force, still remains at Canton, and Breckinridge at Jackson. The fortifications at Haynes' Bluff are now completely laid out. No great work will be required to render it easy to defend the place effectually. Our intrenchments there are calculated for 30,000 to 50,000 troops. The siege here has not yet reached fortifications of the enemy. Sherman's approach, though conducted through the most difficult ground, is nearest of all. His sap was within 50 feet of the rebels' front at 9 p. m. yesterday. McPherson is at about 80 yards or more. Both Sherman and McPherson have abandoned the idea of mining, and intend to crown the enemy's parapet with their artillery. It is now certain that the enemy have constructed a new interior line of defense within the main works, which Sherman is attacking. A violent fire of musketry was heard within Vicksburg yesterday afternoon. No doubt it was mutiny, as we know that disaffection has long existed among their troops, and that on the day of our attack (May 22) both Tennessee and Georgia regiments refused to fight.

A portion of W. S. Smith's division has arrived at Haynes' Bluff. I have from Dennis the particulars of the fight of the 7th instant at Milliken's Bend. There was no fighting at Young's Point, Captain Townsend, commander of convalescents, having drawn up his men so cunningly that the rebels, who were within sight in line of battle, thought themselves greatly outnumbered and withdrew. At the Bend, the battle began soon after daybreak and lasted about three hours. The rebel force was a division of Texans, about 2,000 strong, who marched from Pine Bluff April 30, and arrived at Alexandria after General Banks had left there, and were then ordered this way. They were commanded by General J. G. Walker, with Generals H. E. McCulloch, J. M. Hawes, and Randal under him. They had no artillery. Our forces, who also had no artillery, consisted of Ninth [Eleventh] Louisiana (colored), Col. E. W. Chamberlain, and Twenty-third Iowa, Col. S. L. Glasgow, in all about 1,000 men. General Dennis describes the battle as the hardest he has ever seen. It was fought mainly hand to hand. After it was

over, many men were found dead with bayonet stabs, and others with their skulls broken open by butts of muskets.

The Ninth Louisiana lost 62 killed and 130 wounded; the Eleventh, 30 killed and 120 wounded; the Twenty-third Iowa, 26 killed and 60 wounded; the Ninth has also a great number missing. Of the rebels, we buried 130. General McCulloch died on the field from the effects of a wound.

"It is impossible," says General Dennis, "for men to show greater gallantry than the negro troops in this fight." He does not know whether it is true that the rebels murdered their negro prisoners.

Col. H. Lieb, who was wounded, behaved admirably; Colonel Chamberlain badly.

General Grant has ordered Mower, with his brigade, to Milliken's Bend, and the enemy there will be cleared out beyond Tensas and in the neighborhood of Monroe.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 11, 1863—1 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 14—8 p. m.
(Received June 16—2 p. m.)

General Herron has just reported. His eight regiments are ordered to take position south of Vicksburg, between Lauman's troops and Mississippi River, completely closing the lines, and rendering egress and ingress absolutely impossible. General Burnside's re-enforcements and the rest of the detachments from the Sixteenth Army Corps are still wanting. Of the former, one regiment was at Cairo when Herron left. From Haynes' Bluff, Washburn reports one division cavalry, under W. H. Jackson, 2 miles beyond Mechanicsburg. It left Bragg three weeks ago. A body of infantry under W. H. T. Walker is at Yazoo City, as before reported. Deserters from Vicksburg last evening report corn-meal getting short, so that the ration of bread is one-half of pea flour. Hovey's artillery have destroyed one of their mills and injured the remaining one. They are also out of fresh beef, and have begun to issue bacon, of which some deserters were told by their officers that they have thirty days' supply. The re-enforcements yet to arrive will be concentrated at Haynes'. C. C. Washburn reports that place of such strength on the land side that 10,000 can hold it against 30,000. The engineers report the artificial defenses there will require little labor.

General Grant thinks the demonstration of the enemy west of Mississippi River more serious than we have supposed. Of course, every means in their power on that side will be directed to hindering his operations here.

Our forces now at Milliken's Bend, including Mower's brigade, will not be sufficient for aggressive purposes toward Natchez, but will be ample for defense. The gunboats are judiciously placed—one at Haynes' Bluff, one at Chickasaw Bayou, one at Young's Point, one at Milliken's Bend, one at Lake Providence, one at Greenville, one at Island 65, two at White River, besides others in motion. The seven gunboats below Vicksburg are also stationed where most needed; but the line is long, and the rebels west of Mississippi River may manage to cross somewhere.

It is my duty to report that the Marine Brigade, with its seven large

steamers and its varied apparatus of artillery, infantry, and cavalry, is a very useless as well as a very costly institution.

Your dispatch of the 5th just received. Many thanks.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 12, 1863—7 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 14.
(Received June 16—4 p. m.)

Col. E. W. Gantt, of Arkansas, who commanded a brigade at Island No. 10, was exchanged, and has since lived in retirement, came in yesterday from within the enemy's lines, and surrendered himself to General Grant, who has sent him to Memphis at his own wish as a prisoner. He gives information of the greatest importance. His motive is desire to bring the war to a close. The rebellion, he says, is near its end, and, if it should not perish by our arms, must fall from its own administration and general corruption into mere military despotism. Slavery, he thinks, is also ended forever. According to his report, Bragg has sent all his material to Atlanta, and is ready with his unincumbered troops to fall back to Bristol and Chattanooga as soon as ordered, so that he may hold those places, while he detaches 25,000 men, in addition to those he has already sent, to swell the forces here under Johnston. From Mobile and Savannah all the troops, except enough to man the heavy guns, have already been withdrawn, so that a small force could take either place. Johnston's present army amounts to 37,000 men, exclusive of the garrison of Vicksburg, which is 25,000, including sick and wounded. The order to evacuate Port Hudson arrived there the very day General Banks opened his lines before it. West of the Mississippi, exclusive of Texas, is Kirby Smith's command (32,500 men). He has been ordered to leave every object, except the relief of Vicksburg. Lee's army has not been reduced; on the contrary, it is stronger and more concentrated than ever. What supplies of provisions Pemberton has he does not know, but he knows that percussion caps have been got to him, and that Johnston and he have daily communication.

Herron will to-day take his position on the Warrenton road, taking care, of course, that the garrison at Vicksburg shall see the whole of his march from Young's Point across to the point just below Vicksburg, where his troops will be ferried across the Mississippi. General Grant has also determined to place the whole of Burnside's re-enforcements in that part of the lines, and to put the whole, from McClernand's left, including Lauman's, Herron's, and Burnside's troops, under command of Ord, whose arrival is constantly expected. The siege works have been checked for twenty-four hours by violent storms, but were resumed yesterday. A 9-inch navy gun in McPherson's front is doing very efficient work. Fired at 300 yards, its shells penetrate the rebel parapet some 10 feet and then explode, clearing the parapet away as if by a mine. Should General Grant think it advisable to assault again, we are now in position to do it with effect; but, unless Johnston becomes very pressing, he will rather trust to time and general compression. General Grant has ascertained that a colonel, a captain, and 4 men got out of Vicksburg night before last by going up the Mississippi in a boat, landing on this side of the river just above the sunken gunboat Cincinnati, and making their way through the bottom and across the Yazoo 2 miles

above its mouth. Paymaster Judd arrived here yesterday with 19 subordinate paymasters and funds to pay this army to April 30. As the operation of paying men engaged as these are must prove very inconvenient and injurious to the public interest, General Grant has ordered him back to Memphis for the present.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 14, 1863—8 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 17—Noon.
(Received 7 p. m.)

All the indications point to the speedy surrender of this place. Deserters who came out yesterday say that the Tennessee and Georgia regiments have determined to stack their arms within three days and refuse to continue the defense on the ground that it is useless, and that it is impossible to fight on the rations they receive. All the deserters are worn out and hungry, and say the whole garrison are in the same condition; besides, the defense has for several days been conducted with extraordinary feebleness, which must be due either to the deficiency of ammunition, or exhaustion and depression in the garrison, or to their retirement to an inner line of defense. The first and third of these causes no doubt operate to some extent, but the second we suppose to be the most influential. These deserters also say that fully one-third of the garrison are in hospital, and that officers, as well as men, have begun to despair of relief from Johnston. The troops of General Herron got into position yesterday. The advance of the Ninth Army Corps is also believed by General Grant to have arrived at Young's Point, though he has no positive report, and does not expect one till it has its place as a part of the besieging force on the south of the city, whither he has sent orders for it to proceed. After the arrival there of this corps, General Herron is to move to the right of General Lauman, and occupy that portion of the lines which is now held by Hovey's division, which McClernand will then station as a reserve to support the other divisions of his corps. All of W. S. Smith's division are now at Haynes' Bluff, where I saw them yesterday working upon the intrenchments with admirable zeal. The fortifications there for an army of 25,000 troops will be in a condition for practical use by the 16th instant. It is a stronger defensive position even than Vicksburg. The distance hence to Drumgould's Bluff is 11 miles, to Haynes' Bluff 14. Drumgould's, on which the rebels placed their most elaborate works, is an isolated mamelon. Snyder's and Haynes' Bluffs are connected by a ridge, though flanks on the river side are separated by two ravines and a bayou slope. Snyder's commands the lower, Haynes' the upper bend of the Yazoo. Snyder's Bluff is now being fortified. When the works there are completed, they will be extended around Haynes' also. They will then form an intrenched camp for 50,000 troops. From Joe Johnston there is no news since my last dispatch, except that which merely confirms its principal contents. He has made no new movements in this quarter.

Sebastian, Senator from Arkansas, has determined to claim his seat in the next Congress. With the fall of Vicksburg, he says that all west of the Mississippi is emancipated from the Confederacy, and that Arkansas can be brought back into the Union. He has taken no part in the war.

Please inform me by telegraph whether you wish me to go to General Rosecrans after the fall of Vicksburg, or whether you have any other orders for me. I should like to go home for a short time.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 15, 1863—8 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 18—11 a. m.
(Received June 20—5.30 a. m.)

General Parke reported here last evening. Three brigades landed at Young's Point yesterday; two more debark to-day. General Parke will take his position on the extreme left of the lines, where General Herron is now posted. General Herron takes Hovey's place, between Generals Lauman and Carr. General Hovey's brigade [division?] becomes a reserve. The enemy yesterday laid aside his long-standing inactivity, and opened violently with both artillery and musketry. Two mortars placed at the left of our center, in a ravine near the railroad, in front of A. J. Smith, fired during the day some sixty shell at the trenches of Logan, in McPherson's center. These mortars are out of reach of our artillery and sharpshooters. Though they had the range pretty accurately, they accomplished nothing more than wounding one man. On General Sherman's lines the enemy fired vehemently with musketry, but did no great damage. They are hard at work placing a 42-pounder, brought up from their water battery, so as to bear on General Sherman's center. In that place our approach has reached the ditch of their main fort at the salient. It has been Sherman's intention to crown the parapet of this work at that point, but having reason to believe that the enemy have placed a mine there, he is now opening trenches parallel with the ditch along each flank of the work and crown of the glacis instead. The curtains are each about 100 feet long. On each flank Sherman intends to place six 12-pounder howitzers. The violence of yesterday's fire has also led him to place a battery of four 12-pounder howitzers and two 30-pounder Parrotts in an advanced position, within 50 yards of the fort. These batteries were opened at daybreak this morning, with what effect is not reported. The musketry firing about Sherman's sap was active all night on McPherson's right. Morgan gained yesterday an important advantage by permanently occupying a fortification or spur of the ridge along whose crest the enemy's lines extend; hitherto a ravine has extended between him and them. At McPherson's center, Logan told me last evening that his sap yesterday debouched upon the rebels' salient at which he has been working. This fort has no ditch, but is escarped and is 25 feet high, the escarpment being formed by cutting away the natural declivity of the hill. This escarpment McPherson will either dig down or mine. McClernand is pressing his approaches, but is still much farther off than either of the others. He has some heavy 24-pounders in position and is getting up some 8-inch navy guns. On Lauman's front nothing of importance has been done in the way of regular approaches, but rifle-pits have been opened and our lines considerably shortened. Lauman has brought from Warrenton a rebel rifled 64-pounder, and has a 9-inch columbiad derived from the same source ready to place. General Parke's arrival makes a very great addition to our engineering strength in that quarter. Two competent engineers absent on sick leave also returned yesterday, so that we shall no longer be deficient in that regard. General

Parke will have command both of Lauman's and Herron's forces. Admiral Porter has mounted a 100-pounder rifle on flat-boat, and placed it on the Louisiana shore, under the point which stretches in front of the town. It was fired yesterday with much effect. In the night the enemy sent five boats up the river either to attack this gun and the mortars or to look after the officers whom they sent up the Yazoo last week by way of Steele's Bayou. The boats returned without accomplishing anything. General Grant has placed pickets to watch for these officers. From Joe Johnston, who is now at Jackson, we have trustworthy information this morning. He has six divisions of infantry, varying from 4,000 to 9,000 each, and one of cavalry. Of the former, two are at Yazoo City and the latter is near Mechanicsburg. Pickett, with a force composed of we know not what, is ordered to move from Canton by the Valley road and cross Big Black. General Grant regards the movement as intended for the present simply to occupy the line of Mechanicsburg in force. C. C. Washburn in some alarm, thinking he would soon be attacked, sent for a division of re-enforcements. General Grant has determined to issue an order extending the command of Sherman so as to include Haynes' Bluff. Sherman, whose lines already touch those of Washburn, will thus have the chief command in all that region, and can be there in person and move re-enforcements there from his own corps whenever it may be necessary. At Sherman's request, General Grant has modified his order to the paymasters, sending them back to Memphis, so far as to have them pay Sherman's troops at once and any others whose commanders may desire it.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 16, 1863—8 a. m.
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 19—1 p. m.
(Received June 21—4 p. m.)

General Parke's troops are ordered to Haynes' Bluff. This is done on no new information, but after fuller consideration of that received yesterday morning. Part of his two divisions had already marched over opposite Warrenton, and at 8 p. m. yesterday they had all been brought back and re-embarked for the voyage up Yazoo River. They will all be encamped at Haynes' Bluff by this evening. The chief command there remains with Sherman, as I reported yesterday. The position of the besieging forces continues as before General Parke's arrival. McClernand's engineers reported yesterday that his approach was within 30 yards of the enemy's lines. Firing was quite active throughout the day yesterday along the whole line, and was continued through the night, especially on the front of Generals Sherman and Herron.

Our total loss during the last week was over 50 killed and wounded, of whom about a dozen were killed. I have not been able to get the precise figures.

Much of the ammunition supplied to this army is very bad. A board of survey just held here reports that the Parrott shells are uniformly defective from sand-holes. Some of these are filled with putty; some are left undisguised. The small-arm ammunition from Indianapolis is rascally, the powder worthless and deficient in quantity.

An intelligent Kentuckian who deserted from Loring's corps last week and arrived here yesterday fully confirms the intelligence respect-

ing the numbers of Joe Johnston's forces forwarded in my dispatch of yesterday.

The days here are hot, thermometer sometimes rising to ninety at noon, but the nights are very cool. Showers have laid the dust for a week past. The army has hitherto got water from springs in the ravines, but this source is running out. Some brigades are digging wells; others haul water from distance. Health of troops is excellent.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 17, 1863—8 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 21—11.30 a. m.
(Received June 23—9.15 p. m.)

General Sherman came down from Haynes' Bluff last evening. He reports the intrenchments there as perfectly satisfactory both in design and forwardness of execution. Reports from enemy he found very contradictory, but judges that Loring is this side of the Big Black, and is feeling this way down the peninsula, having the occupation of Oak Ridge Post-Office for his immediate object. That place is on the Benton and Vicksburg road, 9 miles south[north ?]east of Vicksburg, and nearly equidistant between the Yazoo and Big Black. General Sherman does not propose to hinder the approach of Loring by any active opposition, but to complete our chain of defense by simple works at two or three points between Haynes' Bluff and Vicksburg. The command at Haynes' Bluff is, of course, held by General Parke, though in the event of an active campaign General Sherman will go there.

General Herron reports that on the night of the 15th he threw forward the lines on his left, making an advance of 500 yards, and bringing his artillery and rifle-pits within 200 or 300 yards of the enemy's lines. They fired at him yesterday with six pieces of artillery, but killed only 2 of his men and wounded a few more. On the rest of the lines, as I have before reported, our sharpshooters prevent their firing cannons at all, except in the morning they sometimes discharge the pieces they have loaded in the night. General Grant will make another general assault as soon as McClernand's, Lauman's, and Herron's lines are brought up close enough. Our reports from within the place show that they are feeding their men more ample and with better food. The attempt to make bread of peas is abandoned, and corn-meal is used exclusively, and for meat they are issuing salt beef. Captain Comstock, of the Engineers, arrived here yesterday. General Ord is expected to-day. He will command both Herron's and Lauman's forces.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, *June* 18, 1863—8 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 21—9 a. m.
(Received June 23—9 p. m.)

Trustworthy information received here yesterday from Joe Johnston confirms what I have previously reported. Breckinridge is at Clinton with one small division; N. G. Evans, who now commands J. P. McCown's division, is between here and Big Black; Loring, whose divis-

ion is 9,000 strong, has advanced with it to Benton, this side the Big Black, but has had to fall back toward that river to find water for his troops; Walker is at Yazoo City, and W. H. Jackson's cavalry, strengthened by some re-enforcements, are between Yazoo City and Mechanicsburg. General Grant is ruminating the idea of an offensive movement suddenly and without impediments from Haynes' Bluff. Will threaten all the enemy's detachments in detail and take them separately, if possible.

Deserters from within the city yesterday vary somewhat in their reports concerning rations, but all agree that pea bread is no longer issued. On Herron's front yesterday the rebels kept up a fire of large artillery, and on McPherson's the fire of an 11-inch mortar was maintained during the day at intervals of thirty minutes. No damage was done by it. The siege works of Sherman and McPherson are slackened in order to give time for McClernand, Lauman, and Herron to bring theirs up. Ord takes command of Lauman's and Herron's divisions this afternoon. Herron has with him eight regiments only.

I send you to-day by special messenger the topographical map of the siege.

Richmond, La., was destroyed by Mower on the 15th, after a skirmish there with the forces who lately attacked us at Milliken's Bend. Mower had his own brigade and Ellet's Marine Brigade, with ten cannon. After a few shots the rebels fled, and Mower burned every building which had sheltered them, bringing the few women and children who had been left in the place back with him to Milliken's Bend. Col. Kilby Smith, of the Fifteenth Army Corps, who witnessed the late battle at Milliken's Bend, certified in an official statement that the rebels carried a black flag bearing a death's head and cross-bones.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 19, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *June* 22—9 a. m.
(Received June 24—3.35 a. m.)

McClernand last night was relieved of his command and ordered to report to Washington for orders. As the matter may be of some importance, I telegraph the correspondence connected with it. The congratulatory address spoken of in General Grant's first letter is one that first reached here in the Missouri Democrat of June 11. In it he claims for himself most of the glory of the campaign; reaffirms that on May 22 he held two rebel forts for several hours, and imputes to other commanders a failure to aid him to keep them and take the city. The letters are as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In Camp near Vicksburg, Miss., June 17, 1863.

Major-General MCCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: Inclosed I send you what purports to be your congratulatory address to the Thirteenth Army Corps. I would respectfully ask if it is a true copy. If it is not a correct copy, furnish me one by bearer, as required both by regulations and existing orders of the Department.

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
June 18, 1863.

Major-General GRANT:

I have just returned. The newspaper slip is a correct copy of my congratulatory order No. 72. I am prepared to maintain its statements. I regret that my adjutant did not send you a copy promptly as he ought, and I thought he had.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
No. 164. } *Near Vicksburg, Miss., June* 18, 1863.

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IV. Major-General McClernand is hereby relieved from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps. He will proceed to any point he may select in the State of Illinois, and report by letter to Headquarters of the Army for orders. Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord is hereby appointed to the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps, subject to the approval of the President, and will immediately assume charge of the same.

By order of Major-General Grant:

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

BATTLE-FIELD NEAR VICKSBURG, *June* 18, 1863.

Major-General GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

Your order relieving me and assigning Major-General Ord to the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps is received. Having been appointed by the President to the command of the corps under a definite act of Congress, I might justly challenge your authority in the premises, but forbear to do so at present. I am quite willing that any statement of facts in my congratulatory order to the Thirteenth Army Corps to which you think just exception may be taken should be made the subject of investigation, not doubting the result.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

Though the congratulatory address in question is the occasion of McClernand's removal, it is not its cause, as McClernand intimates when he says incorrectly that General Grant has taken exceptions to this address. That cause, as I understand it, is his repeated disobedience of important orders, his general insubordinate disposition, and his palpable incompetence for the duties of the position. As I learned by private conversation, it was, in General Grant's judgment, also necessary that he should be removed, for the reason, above all, that his relations with other corps commanders rendered it impossible that the chief command of this army should devolve upon him, as it would have done were General Grant disabled, without most pernicious consequences to the cause.

Lauman's division, having for some days past been temporarily attached to the Thirteenth Corps, will remain under Ord's command. Herron will continue to report directly to department headquarters. Captain Comstock takes general charge of the siege works on the lines of both Lauman and Herron. The siege works here are steadily progressing on the right and center, rather in the way of enlargement of covered ways and strengthening of the lines than of direct advances. On the front of the Thirteenth Corps and the extreme left, our works constantly approach those of the enemy. On the right of our center, however, an important advantage was this morning gained by General Ransom, who during the night pushed his trenches so that at daylight his sharpshooters were able to take in reverse the whole right flank of the main rebel fort in his front, called Fort Hill. He soon drove out the enemy, killing and wounding many, and will be able to crown the rebel parapet with his artillery whenever the order is given. The rebels

are constructing an interior battery to cover the works they have thus virtually lost. Trustworthy advices from Jackson to the 16th show that Joe Johnston had withdrawn his troops thence. A few guards were all the troops there. As I have before reported, Breckinridge was at Clinton. The rebels are endeavoring to establish at Demopolis, on the Tombigbee, the gun-carriage factory we burned at Jackson. Ten thousand troops from Bragg had passed through that place—re-enforcements to Joe Johnston. No cavalry was among them nor any heavy artillery.

Weather is hot; thermometer at 95 degrees. The springs from which we get water are becoming bad. They are full of lime from decayed shells.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

BEHIND VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 20, 1863—7 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 23—9 a. m.
(Received June 26—9.20 a. m.)

A spy of Admiral Porter, who got into Vicksburg some months ago and has served in an engineer company, came out to us last night. He reports that enemy have mines in front of Sherman, of Ransom, and of Logan. He has worked on that before Sherman. It is made from the ditch of the principal fortifications, so that its explosion will leave the work unharmed, and extends toward the sap, which is now almost in contact with the ditch, there being but about 12 feet between them in front of Logan's position. Of McPherson's lines he does not know the precise position of the mine, but as they talked of exploding it last night, he supposes it must be, like the others, outside of the work, which, as I have before reported, is on the most commanding height of this whole system of defense. On Ransom's front he is also ignorant of the exact position, and cannot say whether the mine covers the position gained by Ransom yesterday morning. Ord reports that at noon yesterday A. J. Smith had also gained the ditch and would mine. The same spy tells us that the garrison, though weak from deficient food and excessive work, generally determined to hold out to the last. Their corn is nearly exhausted, and the ration includes a portion of wheaten flour. They say they can be starved out, but that the place can never be taken otherwise.

A private letter captured at Lake Providence contains the information, which the writer had from an agent of the Confederate Government, that Vicksburg has food enough to hold out to August 1. General Grant opened at 4 o'clock this morning a general cannonade, which is to continue till 10 a. m. We have in position one and a half hundred and eighteen guns. There will be no attack unless a special opportunity should offer. From Joe Johnston we learn that the troops at Yazoo City and the other division this side of Big Black have been moved back across toward Clinton, leaving only detachments and a body of cavalry on this side. Joe Johnston has also notified C. C. Washburn, at Haynes' Bluff, who lately sent a flag of truce by steamboat up Yazoo River to Satartia, that no more flags will be received by the river, but that they must come by the front. General Grant is doubtful whether these movements of Joe Johnston indicate an attempt to avoid Haynes' Bluff by crossing Big Black near Bridgeport or elsewhere lower down, or whether he is about to attack General Banks at

Port Hudson. A body of Texas troops, about 800, attacked Lake Providence on the 10th instant, and were repulsed without much loss on either side. An African regiment fought well.

Have no news of Kirby Smith. An expedition to Deer Creek returned to Haynes' Bluff day before yesterday with 400 cattle, a large number of horses and mules, 300 negroes, and 10 or 12 rebel prisoners. There, as everywhere else, the country is rich in corn and cattle. McClernand left yesterday on his way to Memphis. It appears that ten days ago he invited General M. K. Lawler to attend a meeting of officers from his corps, at which resolutions commendatory of himself (McClernand) were to be passed. Lawler refused, on the ground that it would be a mutinous proceeding, and does not know whether such a meeting was held.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, *June* 21, 1863—6 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 26—9 a. m.
(Received June 29—2.40 p. m.)

Artillery attack yesterday from 4 a. m. till 10. a m. vigorously maintained. Besides gunboats enumerated in my last dispatch, Porter had two [guns] on flats behind the point, and brought two gunboats close up before Vicksburg, making in all about two hundred cannon engaged. The result is to settle the question of a further attempt at present to assault the place, or to leave its reduction to the regular progress of siege operations. During the attack no rebels were visible, nor was any reply made to our artillery, their musketry fire also scarcely amounted to anything. Of course much damage was done to the buildings of the town by such a concentrated cannonade, but we cannot tell whether their mills, foundry, or store-houses were destroyed. Their earthworks were, of course, little injured. General Grant has ordered of mortars one-fifth of one hundred. On Steele's right, in the bottom, about half a mile in the rear of his advance lines, a position has been found from which the entire town is seen and commanded. The earthworks for a heavy and powerful battery have been thrown up. It is intended to put in it the guns of the sunken gunboat Cincinnati, which are but little under water and can easily be recovered. I may state here that the report that any of them have been taken out is false. It will require some days to complete the battery, but when it is done all the buildings in the town can be destroyed by it. Porter reports to General Grant, on the authority of several deserters, that 5 or 6 Federal prisoners, black and white, captured by the rebels in the recent fight at Milliken's Bend, were hanged at Delhi in the presence of General Taylor and his forces, drawn up in hollow square for the purpose. A sergeant of ours, taken by I. F. Harrison's rebel cavalry at Perkins' plantation, was also hanged.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 22, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 28—Noon.
(Received *July* 1—11 p. m.)

Joe Johnston's plan is at last developed. He began yesterday to throw his army across the Big Black at various points above Bridgeport, and

principally in the vicinity of Birdsong's Ferry. A squadron of the Fourth Iowa Cavalry had a fight at Bridgeport with about 500 rebel horse, and lost 40 or 50 killed, wounded, and captured, besides one mountain howitzer. At once on the receipt of this intelligence the troops prepared for Sherman here, with the division at Haynes' Bluff, proceeded to move out, and before 11 a. m. to-day all will be at their destination on the heights and beyond the bottoms in the headwaters of Clear Creek. Johnston must move up mainly by the Benton or Jackson road, which makes a detour from Oak Ridge Post-Office to the northeast, until in the region of his crossing it nearly touches the Big Black; but the greater part of this road winds along very narrow and precipitous ridges, heavily wooded, where a column cannot deploy, and where the advance can easily be checked or its attack repulsed. On this side of Oak Ridge, about the head of Clear Creek, there is a broad, open region, extensively cultivated, where a great army might deploy and fight advantageously—at least on equal terms. The effort of Sherman will be to settle the question before Joe Johnston can get to this open place. Sherman has in all about 30,000, besides cavalry. General Grant holds in readiness to march to re-enforce him five brigades more, under A. J. Smith and Herron, while Osterhaus, with one brigade stationed at the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad crossing of Big Black, is to join him in case of need. As to the strength that Joe Johnston commands, we have no new information. If he pushes his advance, a battle may be fought to-day or to-morrow. The roads he has before him have all been obstructed.

Nothing to report here except steady progress in the siege. Ord is working very hard to bring up the lines where McClernand left them behind, but it will take some time to remedy the disorder which that incompetent commander produced in every part of the corps he has left.

Allow me to represent the very great necessity that some first-rate officer, with suitable energy, patient in character, should be sent here, or found here, to take the place of General J. P. Hawkins, and conduct the organization of the African forces. Hawkins is sick, and very probably will not again be robust enough to efficiently resume his duties in this climate, and the public service is suffering terribly in this most delicate matter in consequence of his absence. I do not know here an officer who could do the duty half as well as he, so that I make no recommendation; but none but a man of the very highest qualities can succeed in the work. I am happy to report that the sentiment of this army with regard to the employment of negro troops has been revolutionized by the bravery of the blacks in the recent battle of Milliken's Bend. Prominent officers, who used in private to sneer at the idea, are now heartily in favor of it.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, *June* 22, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 26—9 a. m.
(Received June 29—5 p. m.)

Additional information from beyond Big Black confirms my former reports. Joe Johnston himself has gone to Jackson, and the forces

hitherto north and northeast of Haynes' Bluff are now all the other side of Big Black, have sent their knapsacks and wagons to Canton, and with three days' cooked rations are moving southward of Vernon. An intelligent spy estimates them at three divisions, with one battery only to each. The whole operation is a puzzle here. General Grant has ordered a heavy reconnaissance eastward from Haynes' Bluff, and Sherman has a strong force blockading the roads with fallen timber on every possible line which might be used for a rear attack on General Grant between Haynes' Bluff and the Jackson Railroad.

Ord reports that it will require about ten days to bring the siege works in his front to the same general efficiency and safety as those of McPherson and Sherman.

The trenches opened by McClernand are mere rifle-pits 3 or 4 feet wide, and will neither allow the passage of artillery nor the assemblage of any considerable numbers of troops. There are no places for arms of troops, and the batteries are, with scarcely an exception, in the position they apparently held when the siege was opened. The rifle-pits are also not systematically arranged for the defenses and strengthening of each other. This, as Ord reports, is apparently not the fault of Lieut. P. C. Hains, the engineer in charge of that part of the lines, but is due to the fact that the corps commanders and generals of divisions were not willing to follow his directions, either as to the manner of opening the lines of advance or the positions of the batteries to protect those lines. Deserters from within the town report that during the bombardment of day before yesterday the whole garrison was under arms, expecting an assault, and that the Tennessee and Georgia regiments which are stationed on the rebel left, in front of Steele, were resolved to stack their arms, but their officers urged them to hold out, saying among other things that they had rations for a week longer, and that it would be disgraceful to surrender as long as they still had the means of defense; besides, it was probable that Joe Johnston would relieve them before the end of that period.

General Grant is sending a flag to Taylor, at Delhi, La., to notify him that the Government is bound to protect all its enlisted soldiers, and that if he (Taylor) is resolved to hang prisoners of war, the issue must be accepted on our side.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 24, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 28—Noon.
(Received July 1—11 p. m.)

The report that Joe Johnston had crossed Big Black, or was crossing, was erroneous. Sherman can find no trace of him. He is still on the other side. The siege goes on as usual. I was at Herron's lines yesterday. He has pushed them forward with much energy. His rifle-pits extend within 150 yards of the enemy, and his batteries are well advanced. We have by the gunboat Arizona, of Admiral Farragut's fleet, which arrived at Warrenton yesterday, a report that General Banks had taken Port Hudson. No details have reached us.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 25, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 28—11 a. m.
(Received July 1—10 p. m.)

We have authentic information from Joe Johnston. He is between Canton, Bolton, and Bridgeport, and has made no movement of importance since that of Loring's back across the Big Black. The report from the spy of General Grant, which led to the sending out of Sherman on the 22d instant, was a mistake, though it must have had some foundation. Our present accounts indicate 35,000 as about the limit of the total troops of Joe Johnston. No new re-enforcements from Bragg have come up, so far as we are informed. Pemberton yesterday sent out to General Grant 4 men whom he has for several months held as hostages for the slaying of a Mr. White while concerned in a guerrilla fight in Western Tennessee. Their release indicates the near surrender of Vicksburg. The prisoners' statements agree with our other accounts in representing the siege at about an end. From the best intelligence we can gain, the supply of food cannot be stretched to last more than a week longer. Wheaten and rice flour are now issued for bread. Meanwhile our siege works are urged forward with great industry, though, if there was a better supply of engineer officers, the labor would be much more effectively applied. On Sherman's front everything is advancing favorably. McPherson has a mine, with three trenches extending 35 feet under the great fort in his front, which is now being tapped, and will probably be exploded before my next dispatch. It is expected this will open that fort to our occupation, and as it is the key of the rebel line on the eastern side, its possession must in all probability be followed by the early submission of the town. On Ord's front a great deal has been accomplished, especially in widening the trenches, connecting them, and making it practicable to move men and artillery through them. Ord is devoting his attention particularly to Hovey's approaches, which he thinks offer perhaps the most favorable attack in our whole line, but which McClernand has left in great backwardness. A week's labor will, however, bring them into such a condition that Hovey will probably be able to crown the rebel lines with his artillery.

Next to Hovey is Lauman, who has repeatedly lost pickets, and night before last had a lieutenant-colonel and 9 men captured by the enemy. Lauman is a brave man, but an ox is just as fit to command as he.

Further on, upon our extreme left, Herron continues to press on with zeal. Last night, after a brisk skirmish, he took the last rebel rifle-pits outside of their intrenchments, and captured in it a lieutenant and 9 men. His siege approaches are going forward well, under the direction of Captain Comstock, of the Engineers. In front of the town Admiral Porter has established on the point behind one of the levees a battery of three rifled guns and four smooth-bores, which bears directly on the city, and does most effective work. Ample preparation has been made in that quarter against an attempt of the garrison to escape by means of skiffs, of which we learn they are provided some two thousand or more for this purpose.

The Marine Brigade has gone on an expedition, or rather a reconnaissance, to Delhi. The enemy are endeavoring to cut off the navigation of the Mississippi. They have planted a battery of six guns on Catfish Point, opposite Greenville, and have annoyed several boats on their way down. An expedition leaves to-day to clear them out. The troops are

taken from Haynes' Bluff. The forces under Sherman still remain on Clear Creek and Bear Creek. No orders to return have been sent to them.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 26, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *June* 29—3 p. m.
(Received July 1—8.40 p. m.)

McPherson, yesterday, just before 4 p. m., sprung his mine. It was charged with 1,200 pounds of powder, the explosion forming a crater about 35 feet in diameter, and carrying away a greater part of the bastion but not reaching the terre-plein of the fort. The working party of one regiment was at once hastened into the opening, and another regiment was thrown out as sharpshooters to cover them on the east flank of the work. Some of our men climbed the parapet with a view of taking aim over it at the enemy within, but were obliged to fall back and seek protection on the outer slope of the parapet. No attempt was made to enter the work through the breach; indeed, even after the explosion, the ascent remained so steep that an assault would have encountered serious difficulties from that cause alone. Our men remaining on the outer slope, as I have said, were obliged to fire very much at random, but the rebels had no better chance at them. The object of our working party was to prepare places for cannon, and also to dig rifle-pits behind the crest of the parapet.

The enemy very soon opened a galling fire from shells with short fuses, thrown over the ridge by hand-like grenades. To this we replied as actively as possible, and this conflict between parties invisible to each other, not only on account of the darkness, but also on account of the barrier between them, was kept up with fury during the night, and still continues up to this hour. We have made no progress in the work whatever, and have not been able either to plant a battery or open a rifle-pit, or even to ascertain what is the real practical value of the fort of which we have just got possession of one corner, and cannot tell whether the adjoining works are or are not enfiladed against fire from it. Our loss since the explosion to this hour is from 60 to 100 killed and wounded, including 2 lieutenant-colonels and 1 major.

Immediately on the springing of the mine a tremendous cannonade was opened along our whole line, accompanied by active firing from the rifle-pits. This fire was continued with little relaxation during the night, and is still maintained with vigor. The siege works in front of Sherman are the most advanced, but have been delayed for two or three days by the effort to find a mine which the enemy, starting from the counter-scarp and working from the ditch, has run under our lines.

General Grant this morning sent for Steele, who is in command there during Sherman's absence up Big Black, and directed him to push his approach with the utmost energy, and endeavor to crown the work to-day, if possible. F. Steele says it cannot be done before to-morrow. Similar orders have been sent to Ord, and every means will be taken to prevent the enemy from concentrating against McPherson. Steele's pickets, on the Mississippi, just above the wreck of the sunken gunboat Cincinnati, yesterday captured a rebel mail-carrier attempting to make his way through the Yazoo bottoms. Among his letters was one from

General M. L. Smith and one from Major [W. T.] Withers, chief of artillery in Vicksburg. They contained no facts of moment except the settled and desperate expedient of the speedy surrender of the place. All these letters agreed in saying that they were on short rations—on quarter pound of bacon daily, with bread of wheat and rice mixed. The deserters who came out yesterday report that surrendering is the topic most discussed. The majority, however, of the troops appear to be for fighting to the last. Several of the letters I have spoken of say that they shall eat their horses and mules before they give up. General Dennis, commanding at Young's Point, has thoroughly picketed the river front of Vicksburg (on the Louisiana side, of course), and began yesterday to keep the people from procuring water from the Mississippi by the fire of his sharpshooters. This he was also able to do to a great extent during the night. The rebels fired their water batteries at him, but up to this morning their shells have done him no damage.

The officers whom General Grant sent over into Louisiana on the 22d with a flag of truce for General R. Taylor returned this morning. They penetrated as far as Delhi, where they found an inconsiderable body of Taylor's forces, and delivered their dispatches, to which no answer had yet been received. The officers they met denied positively that any of our soldiers or officers, black or white, have been hanged or are likely to be hanged. The white men, however, are held as hostage in some way, and the negroes have been handed over to the State authorities, by whom they will probably be sold. These statements may, of course, be modified by the official reply of Taylor, which is to be forwarded at once. Our officers got the impression that Taylor is at Alexandria. They say that all parties with whom they conversed, citizens and soldiers, manifest great dismay at the idea of our arming negroes, which they suppose must be followed by insurrection with all its horrors. No news from Joe Johnston since my last.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, *June* 27, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *July* 1—4 p. m.
(Received July 3—1.55 p. m.)

Spy from Canton, 25th, arrived at Haynes' Bluff on 26th. Troops of Joe Johnston (35,000) under marching orders; Joe Johnston personally in command; 10,000 from Bragg, viz, 5,000 from Polk and 5,000 from Hardee's corps, now on their way; will re-enforce Joe Johnston on or before 30th. Never saw so extensive a wagon train as that accumulating at Canton; mules all in good order; artillery very numerous, but of mixed sizes and characters. Whole body will move to attack Sherman early next week, just as soon as re-enforcements from the east arrive. All are zealous for fight; conscripts numerous in their ranks. They bring corn by rail from the country south of Grenada. I was at Sherman's camp, on Bear Creek, yesterday afternoon, and found his amazing activity and vigilance pervading his whole force. The country is exceedingly favorable for defense, and he has occupied the commanding points; opened rifle-pits wherever they will add to his advantage; obstructed the cross-roads and most of the direct roads also, and ascertained every point where the Big Black can be forded between the line of Benton, on the north, and the line of railroad, on the south. By rapid movements of his forces, also, and by deploying them on all the ridges

and open headlands, he produces the impression that his forces are ten times as numerous as they really are. He has moved but one division from Haynes' Bluff, and has General Parke's corps still encamped at Milldale, in front of Haynes' Bluff, where it was placed on its first arrival. His right, under Osterhaus, still rests on the railroad bridge across the Big Black. Scouts before mentioned say that Price and E. Kirby Smith combined are about to attempt to provision Vicksburg by way of Milliken's Bend, which they will try to capture. A vast number of small boats have lately been prepared in Vicksburg. Of the siege, there is nothing of importance to report since my last dispatch. McPherson has not yet succeeded in placing batteries or rifle-pits in the breach made by the explosion of the 25th. He is now busily engaged in mining the adjoining fort on the left of the one whose bastion he then blew up. Rockets were thrown up in Vicksburg last night and night before last, and they were answered from a point on the Louisiana side opposite Warrenton.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 28, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *July* 1—4 p. m.
(Received July 3—11 a. m.)

No progress has been made in the siege since my last dispatch. On Sherman's front, enemy yesterday morning sprung a mine, which destroyed those Sherman's engineers had nearly finished, and threw the head of his sap into confusion generally. The engineers have gone back some 50 feet to run a new mine under the fort. The gully will not be less than one and a quarter hundred feet in length, and will require several days to complete. On McPherson's front nothing has been accomplished. An attempt is now being made to raise a cavalier work on the parapet of the crater formed by the recent explosion. Sand-bags are to be laid up, if possible, with loop holes for sharpshooters, and short rifle-pits dug on each flank, with the design of driving the enemy from the interior of the fort; but this effort is of doubtful success, for the enemy maintain a most obstinate defense, and with their hand-grenades render it difficult for our working parties to remain in the crater at all. The wounds inflicted by those missiles are frightful. The working parties of Ord are also getting near enough to be checked by hand-grenades, while Lauman, while farther from the rebel lines, is almost nightly assailed by little sorties of the enemy. He loses one or two men every night, and sometimes more, generally by carelessness, and lately had one of his rifle-pits filled up by a party that made a dash upon him. Herron, too, has been stopped for the last two nights by the brightness of the moonlight, which has enabled the enemy to fire at his men on fatigue duty. The heat of the weather, the unexpected length of the siege, the absence of any thorough organization of the engineer department, and the general belief of our officers and men that the town must presently fall into our hands without any special effort or sacrifice, all conspire to produce comparative inactivity and inefficiency on our part.

Captain Prime, chief engineer of the department, went north yesterday, very sick. Captain Comstock succeeds him as chief engineer. Captain [Miles D.] McAlester arrived yesterday; succeeds Comstock in charge of the lines of Ord, Lauman, and Herron, while Comstock, in

addition to his general duties, is to take charge of those of McPherson and Sherman. There is still a lamentable deficiency of engineer officers.

No further news from Joe Johnston. It is certain that he is waiting only for his new re-enforcements from Bragg. His attack will be made immediately on their arrival. We have no details of the late operations of General Banks. The report of his success, which I telegraphed the other day as brought by a gunboat, was certainly false. Admiral Porter has a later report that the second assault has, like the first, been disastrously repulsed, but how true it is no one here can tell.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, *June* 29, 1863—9 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *July* 1—10 p. m.
(Received July 4—8 p. m.)

Two separate parties of deserters from Vicksburg agree in the statement that the provisions of the place are near the point of total exhaustion; that rations have now been reduced lower than ever; that extreme dissatisfaction exists among the garrison, and that it is agreed on all hands that the city will be surrendered on Saturday, July 4, if, indeed, it can hold on so long as that. Col. C. R. Woods, who holds our extreme right on the Mississippi, has got out five of the thirteen guns of the sunken gunboat Cincinnati, and this morning opens three of them from batteries on the bluff. The others, including those still in the vessel, he will place as rapidly as possible in a battery he has constructed on the river half a mile in the rear of his lines. Though this battery has no guns in it, yet the enemy has been firing its heaviest ordnance at it for several days past, and has done to the embrasures some little damage, easily repairable. It commands the whole face of the town. On McPherson's front a new mine is now nearly completed, and will at furthest be ready to spring at daylight to-morrow. It is intended to destroy internal rifle-pits with which the rebels still hold the fort whose bastion was overthrown by McPherson's former mine. If successful, it will give us complete possession of that fort, as the narrowness of the ridge on which it stands and the abruptness of the ravine behind it made it impossible that it should be defended by any third line in the rear of that now being undermined. The new line in Sherman's front will probably not be ready so soon, but the engineer's morning report has not been made. No news from Joe Johnston.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 30, 1863—2 p. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *July* 5.
(Received July 8—9.20 a. m.)

General Grant this morning held a council of war with his army corps commanders to take their judgment on the question of trying another general assault, or leaving the result to the exhaustion of the garrison. The conclusion of the council was in favor of the latter policy, and as General Grant had himself previously strongly inclined to that course, it will, no doubt, be adhered to.

Captain Comstock, chief engineer, reports to-day that in the present condition of the siege works, and the indisposition of the troops to work zealously in the trenches, it will require at least a fortnight to take the place by that means only; still, it is possible that the explosion of a new mine, now nearly finished, in the fort on McPherson's center, and another mine, under the rifle-pits on the front of Ransom, who holds McPherson's right, may give us advantages that will expedite the catastrophe. The first of these mines will be sprung within twenty-four hours.

I visited yesterday the front of Vicksburg on the Louisiana side. There are six guns of various calibers planted opposite the town, mostly in the railroad embankment. About De Soto the batteries are badly constructed, and the guns are exposed to a converging fire from the heavy artillery of the rebels, but the town is there so completely exposed to us that, though our guns are only fired occasionally, they are quite effective. Two 12-pounder howitzers are kept masked against a possible attempt of the enemy to escape in that direction, and one regiment of infantry is kept on picket. It is not true that our sharpshooters prevent the rebels from getting water.

A rebel force, said to be 6,000 men, with two guns, attacked General H. T. Reid at Lake Providence on the 28th, and was repulsed. Reid had three regiments of white troops. The rebels took the way down river, devastating the plantations. No signs of an attack from Joe Johnston. General Sherman still remains about Bear Creek, waiting and preparing.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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NEAR VICKSBURG, *July* 2, 1863—10 a. m.,
VIA MEMPHIS, *July* 5—10.30 a. m.
(Received July 8—9 a. m.)

We have no positive information concerning Joe Johnston. All of General Grant's and General Sherman's scouts concur in saying that the main body of his army remains in the same position, between Canton, Vernon, Brownsville, and Bolton. Day before yesterday a report was received from some cavalry outpost, who crossed the Big Black at Hall's Ferry, penetrated 5 miles on the other side, and learned from inhabitants that a force, variously estimated from 1,200 to 12,000, had pushed down the Rocky Springs road. Yesterday a squadron of the Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry had a skirmish with a body of the enemy at Hankinson's Ferry. He drove them back and made their way across to this side. The number of this force is reckoned at about 200. M. K. Lawler's brigade marched from here last night to look after them. McPherson yesterday exploded a second mine under the main fort in his front. Six rebels were thrown into our lines by the explosion; all dead but one, a negro. The right flank fort was cleared off by it, so that Ransom's shells had free way into the work. Many rebels were killed, but McPherson has not yet got possession of the fort. In the absence of ordinary mortars, he has constructed several of wood, throwing 12-pounder shells effectively.

On Ord's front the enemy have exploded a mine before a sap of ours, doing us no damage, but giving us the advantage of carrying the trench into the crater. Orders have been given to abandon all attempts to push forward saps with a view of entering the enemy's works by that

means, and to devote the labor of working parties to widening the covered ways and carrying them as near the rebel lines as practicable, in order to afford cover for storming columns.

The reports of deserters generally agree that the town is to be surrendered on the 4th instant. They also say that mule meat is issued to the garrison, though some report that flour and bacon are both plenty. If enemy do not give up Vicksburg before 6th instant, it will be stormed on that day. From Milliken's Bend, E. S. Dennis reports that the rebel force, about 7,000 strong, which recently appeared at Lake Providence, have come down as far as Goodrich's, 15 miles above Milliken's Bend, destroying plantations, burning all the buildings, and carrying off some negroes. The weather is hot; thermometer at noon above 100 degrees.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *July* 4, 1863.

Vicksburg has capitulated. Yesterday General Grant received the following letter:

HEADQUARTERS, *Vicksburg, July* 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces:

GENERAL: I have the honor to propose to you an armistice for ——— hours, with a view to arranging terms for the capitulation of Vicksburg. To this end, if agreeable to you, I will appoint three commissioners to meet a like number, to be named by yourself, at such place and hour to-day as you may find convenient.

I make this proposition to save the further effusion of blood, which must otherwise be shed to a frightful extent, feeling myself fully able to maintain my position for a yet indefinite period.

This communication will be handed you under flag of truce by Maj. Gen. J. S. Bowen.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

To this Grant replied as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In the Field, near Vicksburg, July 3, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: Your note of this date is just received, proposing an armistice for several hours, for the purpose of arranging terms of capitulation through commissioners to be appointed, &c.

The useless effusion of blood you propose stopping by this course can be ended at any time you may choose, by an unconditional surrender of the city and garrison. Men who have shown so much endurance and courage as those now in Vicksburg will always challenge the respect of an adversary, and I can assure you will be treated with all the respect due to prisoners of war.

I do not favor the proposition of appointing commissioners to arrange terms of capitulation, because I have no terms other than those indicated above.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

Bowen, the bearer of Pemberton's letter, was received by General A. J. Smith. He expressed a strong desire to converse with General Grant, and accordingly Grant, while declining this, requested General Smith to say that if General Pemberton desired to see him, an interview would be granted between the lines in McPherson's front at any hour in the afternoon which Pemberton might appoint. A message was soon sent back to Smith, appointing 3 o'clock as the hour. Grant was there with his staff and with Generals Ord, McPherson, Logan, and A. J. Smith. Pemberton came late, attended by General Bowen and Colonel [L. M.]

Montgomery. He was much excited, and was impatient in his answer to Grant. The conversation was held apart between Pemberton and his officers, and Grant, McPherson, and A. J. Smith. The rebels insisted on being paroled and allowed to march beyond our lines here, officers and all, with eight days' rations, drawn from their own stores, officers to retain their private property and body servants. Grant heard what they had to say, and left them at the end of an hour and a half, saying that he would send in his ultimatum in writing before evening; to which Pemberton promised to reply before night, hostilities to cease in the mean time. Grant then conferred at his headquarters with his corps and division commanders, all of whom, except Steele, who advised to unconditional surrender, favored a plan proposed by McPherson, and which Grant finally adopted. The argument against the plan was one of feeling only. In its favor was urged that it would at once demoralize Grant's whole army for offensive operations, while to guard and transport so many prisoners would require a great portion of its strength. Keeping them would also absorb all our steamboat transportation, while paroling them would leave it free to move our troops. Paroling would also save us an enormous expenditure. After long consideration, General Grant reluctantly gave way to these reasons, and at 6 p. m. sent the following letter by the hands of General Logan and Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, July 3, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss.:

GENERAL: In conformity with agreement of this afternoon, I will submit the following proposition for the surrender of the city of Vicksburg, public stores, &c.:

On your accepting the terms proposed, I will march in one division as a guard and take possession at 8 a. m. to-morrow. As soon as rolls can be made out, and paroles signed by officers and men, you will be allowed to march out of our lines, the officers taking with them their side-arms and clothing, and the field, staff, and cavalry officers one horse each. The rank and file will be allowed all their clothing, but no other property. If these conditions are accepted, any amount of rations you may deem necessary can be taken from the stores you now have, and also the necessary cooking utensils for preparing them. Thirty wagons also, counting two two-horse or mule teams as one, will be allowed to transport such articles as cannot be carried along.

The same conditions will be allowed to all sick and wounded officers and soldiers as fast as they become able to travel.

The paroles for these latter must be signed, however, while officers are present authorized to sign the roll of prisoners.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

The officers who received this letter stated that it would be impossible to answer it by night, and it was not till a little before peep of day that the proposed reply was furnished:

HEADQUARTERS, *Vicksburg, July* 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *Commanding United States Forces, &c.:*

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, proposing terms of capitulation for this garrison and post.

In the main your terms are accepted, but in justice both to the honor and spirit of my troops, manifested in the defense of Vicksburg, I have the honor to submit the following amendments, which, if acceded to by you, will perfect the agreement between us:

At 10 a. m. to-morrow I propose to evacuate the works in and around Vicksburg, and to surrender the city and garrison under my command, by marching out with my colors and arms, stacking them in front of my present lines, after which you will take possession. Officers to retain their side-arms and personal property, and the rights and property of citizens to be respected.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

To this General Grant immediately replied as follows:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., July 4, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of July 3. The amendment proposed by you cannot be acceded to in full. It will be necessary to furnish every officer and man with a parole signed by himself, which, with the completion of the rolls of prisoners, will necessarily take some time.

Again, I can make no stipulations with regard to the treatment of citizens and their private property. While I do not propose to cause them any undue annoyance or loss, I cannot consent to leave myself under any restraint by stipulations. The property which officers will be allowed to take with them will be as stated in my proposition of last evening; that is, officers will be allowed their private baggage and side-arms, and mounted officers one horse each.

If you mean by your proposition for each brigade to march to the front of the lines now occupied by it, and stack arms at 10 a. m., and then return to the inside, and there remain as prisoners until properly paroled, I will make no objection to it.

Should no notification be received of your acceptance of my terms by 9 a. m., I shall regard them as having been rejected, and shall act accordingly. Should these terms be accepted, white flags should be displayed along your lines, to prevent such of my troops as may not have been notified from firing upon your men.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

To this the subjoined answer has this moment been received:

HEADQUARTERS, *Vicksburg, Miss., July* 4, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this day, and in reply to say that the terms proposed by you are accepted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

All preparations for occupying the town are completed. In an hour it will be in our possession. In anticipation of this result, orders were yesterday given to Sherman to prepare to cross Big Black and strike at Johnston. In addition to the forces previously under his command, he takes from the lines here the remainder of the Thirteenth and Fifteenth Army Corps. These move out instantly by way of the railroad bridge, while Sherman has built bridges at Messinger's Ford and Birdsong Ferry. They all march light, with provisions of hard bread, coffee, and sugar and salt only. Sherman is restricted by no special instructions, except that he is to destroy railroads, bridges, and crops. Alexander Ross, lawyer, of Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas, conscript in the rebel army, deserted to us recently at Lake Providence, reports the existence of a strong Union feeling in all parts of that State. Union men, including many large slaveholders, are organized in secret societies, with watchwords and passes, in Montgomery, Clarke, Hempstead, Calhoun, Bradley, and Columbia Counties. There have been fights between these societies and Confederate troops with various results. Where the former have been defeated, they have generally been hanged without trial. Among the conscripts in Marmaduke's and Tabbat's [J. C. Tappan's?] troops are many of these secret Unionists. He also reports that in Arkansas the Confederates have, under Sterling Price, sixteen regiments, in four brigades, commanded by Parsons, Fagan, Frost, and McRae, averaging 400 men to each regiment, with one brigade of 1,500 conscripts and civilians, under General Cabell. There is also under Marmaduke a brigade of 1,500 cavalry, poorly mounted, and armed with shot-guns.

Of artillery, Price has in all four batteries, of four guns each. In Louisiana are three brigades of Texans, two of which are commanded by Randal and McCulloch, and one brigade of Arkansians, under Tabbat [Tappan ?]. These four brigades count together 5,000 men. There is also a cavalry brigade, under Parsons, of 1,600 men; artillery, four batteries, of four guns each, and Richard Taylor's division, headquarters Alexandria, 4,000 men.

Thus, according to Mr. Ross, Kirby Smith's whole force is little more than 20,000 effective men. Powder, he says, is manufactured at Arkadelphia; other ammunition at Camden, on the Washita. Both places are very lightly garrisoned. The number of negroes carried off from the leased plantations in Louisiana is 400.

C. A. DANA.

Hon. E. M. STANTON.

No. 4.

Reports of Capt. Frederick E. Prime, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Chief Engineer, of operations January 30–May 4.

STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Camp opposite Vicksburg, Miss., January 30, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward herewith tracing of point opposite Vicksburg. The dotted line at the entrance of the canal shows the new direction so as to correspond with the course of the current. Ground was broken to-day. To-morrow I shall try and dam the canal at the point marked, not having any levels but such as used by masons. I shall then be enabled to obtain the approximate difference of level between the water level at the entrance and exit of the canal. At present it is variously estimated from 28 inches to 3 feet. The velocity, as roughly measured to-day by using a floating body, was 422 feet in two minutes. I shall commence making a few fascines and gabions to-morrow. There is difficulty in procuring proper materials for withes and for gabions in the immediate neighborhood.

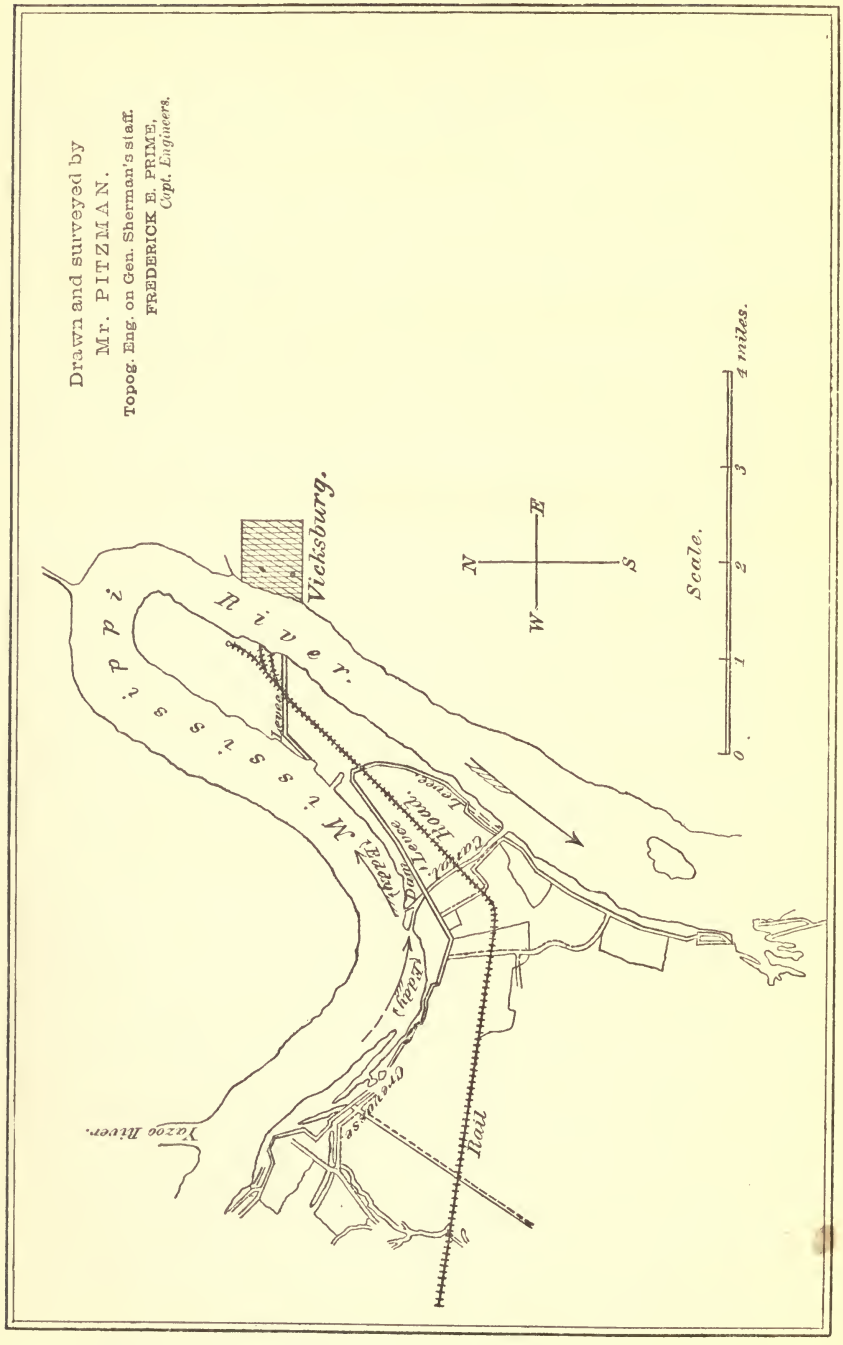
Should circumstances require the expedition to remain here for some length of time, and the river continues to rise, there will be much trouble from the backwater in the swamps coming from the *crevasses* in the levee. There is a *crevasse* above here, as shown on the map, which in a few days will probably be repaired. About 2½ miles above the mouth of the Yazoo River there is another and more troublesome *crevasse*, which I have not been able to examine, nor have I any person to send. There is also another *crevasse* some 10 or 12 miles below here. The earth from the new entrance to the canal will be used on the east side to form a species of levee connecting with the old levee, in order to prevent the current (in case it should show a tendency to cut) from expending itself on the low land outside of the levee when the old levee is passed. The levee, as stated in my previous letter, is being constructed on the west side, in order to prevent the camping-ground from being inundated.

I shall continue to give the Department all information that I can obtain in connection with the engineer part of the expedition. As I have no means or time to keep copies of my letters, any repetitions must be laid to that cause.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer of the Army, Washington, D. C.


Drawn and surveyed by
Mr. PITZMAN.
Topog. Eng. on Gen. Sherman's staff.
FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Capt. Engineers.
Vicksburg.
Mississippi River.
Levee
Dam
Canal
Road
Levee
Levee
Rail
Yazoo River.
Scale.
0
1
2
3
4 miles.
N
E
S
W

STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Camp opposite Vicksburg, February 1, 1863.

GENERAL: I have to acknowledge receipt of Department letter of January 23 and telegram of January 28. The canal was closed yesterday afternoon by a dam of corn-sacks, filled with earth, resting against a wooden framework. No difficulty was experienced. Leveling shows the difference of level of the water at the two ends of the canal to be 2.62 feet. Another trial of the velocity yesterday gave three minutes for 422 feet, the same distance as mentioned in a previous letter to have been performed in two minutes. What causes the discrepancy I am unable to say. The river is still rising. Captain Jenney reports 6 inches rise in last twenty-four hours, as opposed to 5 inches in previous twenty-four hours. Captain Kossak (from Corinth) reported here for duty to-day. He says the works there should be completed within ten or twelve days if the men work well. He complains of want of energy and indifference on the part of the contrabands. When the present works are completed, there will still remain two or more large reserve magazines to be constructed near the brick seminary. The map of Corinth (our works, the rebel works, and our approaches) is completed, and will shortly be sent to General Cullum through the Department. A trace copy will be retained here for reference.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer of the Army.*

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STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Opposite Vicksburg, February 9, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report as follows with respect to operations in my charge at this point: The water is still rising at the rate of 2½ inches per twenty-four hours for past two days. A dam has been erected at each point where the canal crosses the levee. The water in the intermediate space will be let out into the swamps and low grounds as soon as the camps south of the railroad and west of the canal have been entirely removed, which, I trust, will be to-morrow. This will render it practicable to remove the stumps and trees now in the canal, and to widen and deepen the canal to the necessary dimensions. A frame is being sunk in the excavation for the new entrance. It has reached a depth of 6 feet below the surface, and stiff clay is the material now encountered. The water seeps in so that at present the excavation in the new entrance cannot be pushed deeper than about 4 feet on an average. The well formed by the frame and sheet-piling is to be used for draining the canal, by large steam-pump ram—a steamer belonging to the Navy; one has an 11-inch discharge and the other 18-inch. But few soldiers are at present employed, on account of shifting camps, building roads, &c., and the delays which have prevented the canal from being emptied. Five hundred and fifty contrabands are now here and are employed on the new entrance of the canal. The work on the canal between the levees will most probably be assigned to the details furnished by the troops. With fair weather and strong working parties, there is a fair prospect of obtaining satisfactory results.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer of the Army.*

STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Opposite Vicksburg, February 16, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Department letter of February 5, with respect to funds applied for. The water in the river has been very nearly at the same level since my last letter. Work on the new entrance is progressing; this work is done by contrabands. Between the levees but little work has been done as yet by the troops, on account of the bad weather for the past two days. The water in the canal has been drawn off by a cut leading into the low ground to the westward; it is now about 7 feet below the level of the water in the river.

Colonel Bissell's engineer regiment, which arrived yesterday, will be employed extracting the stumps in the present canal, and also in the proposed enlargement, and in clearing a channel of 200 feet in width through the lowest part of the swamps and low ground between the canal and *crevasse* at Johnson's plantation. The water-marks on the trees are 10 feet above the soil, and even now it is probable a depth of from 5 to 6 feet could be obtained by allowing the river to flow into these bottoms. This new channel would be tried in case too heavy a fire should be brought to bear by the rebel batteries on the present outlet of the canal. A few shells and shot have been thrown about 100 yards north of the lower levee from batteries above and below the outlet of the canal; there is, therefore, a cross-fire, though as yet there is nothing to indicate the existence of an enfilading battery.

Mr. Halleck, engineer clerk, who leaves to-day for Memphis, will, on his arrival,forward by Adams Express to the Department the original map of Corinth, our approaches, and the enemy's works. He will also transmit at the same time all weekly reports connected with the works at Corinth and Memphis. To complete the record with respect to the works at Corinth; I have directed Captain Kossak to draw up a memoir thereon, extending up to his first weekly report.

I have experienced much difficulty in making the necessary surveys at Memphis and Corinth, for want of proper instruments. I have, therefore, to request that a surveyor's compass and tripod, a level and tripod, and three pocket compasses may be sent to me by the engineer agent at New York, through Adams Express. I shall on receipt of the level be able to furnish the references of interior crests of works at Corinth and prominent points in the neighborhood, which will render the drawing complete.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer of the Army.

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STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Opposite Vicksburg, February 21, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that we have had but two days favorable for work since my letter of the 16th (the 19th and 20th). To-day it is again raining. The troops are at work on the part of the canal assigned to them. The steam pump was started on the 19th, and answers well in keeping the new entrance of the canal clear of water. It is only worked to one-half of its capacity, and even then is sucking most of the time. Colonel Bissell's engineer regiment, with the ex-

ception of two companies under command of Major Tweeddale, has been sent to Lake Providence, for duty under Major-General McPherson. The companies here are employed extracting stumps, and will put up the steam dredge daily expected. Another steam dredge, ordered here, will be used at Lake Providence, if needed. By direction of the major-general commanding, nothing will be done at present toward cutting the proposed opening through the woods in the bottoms toward Johnson's Bayou or Crevasse. The water is falling. The fall for the past three days has averaged between 1 and 2 inches. Captain Kossak, on examination of batteries opposite the outlet of the canal, reports three—one in casemate, nearly enfilading the canal. None of these batteries have opened as yet, and from appearances they would seem to have but one gun in each. Lieutenant Lochbihler's company is employed, when the weather is favorable, in preparing gabions and fascines. We have one hundred and twenty of the latter and some thirty of the former; these are made from vines, which are in great abundance. As soon as practicable, frames for magazines and timber for casemates will be provided. No instructions with respect to the construction of batteries have as yet been received.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer of the Army.*

[P. S.]—Fall of river at Memphis reported as over 6 feet.

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STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Opposite Vicksburg, March 1, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report as follows with respect to operations on canal since my last, of 21st instant [ultimo]: 22d and 23d, little or nothing done—rain; 24th, 25th, and part of 26th, at work—favorable weather; 27th and 28th, no work—rain, and water high. To-day is a fine day; wind from northwest, and mud drying rapidly. No work outside of the main levees, on account of high water and the river still rising. The dams outside of levees have been overflowed, and pump cannot work. One steam dredge is here, and will go to work to-morrow. There are over 1,000 contrabands here. The six-gun battery below mouth of canal is progressing favorably, and, I trust, will be ready for the guns in about three days. Shall send by to-day's mail, under separate envelope, tracing of map of Vicksburg and neighborhood, prepared by Captain Pitzman,* General Sherman's topographical officer.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer of the Army.*

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STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Opposite Vicksburg, March 11, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward herewith Captain Jenney's report for month of February, and Lieutenant [I. G.] Kappner's report for week ending March 1.†

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* To appear in Atlas.

† Omitted as unimportant.

Since my report of March 1, an order was issued requiring half the effective force of each regiment to work on the canal for twenty-four hours each day. The work was progressing very satisfactorily, when, on the morning of the 7th, the upper dam gave way. The opening in the canal levee which had been used to drain the water was still open, and there was consequently a heavy rush of water at this point, which it was found impossible to stop. This opening is now about 150 feet wide, double its original width. The condition of the canal is at present as follows: Between upper main levee and railroad, mostly dug out to required width, and about six or eight stumps in the canal; the canal levee is above water of river 18 inches. There was reason to fear a break in this levee, where it joins the main levee, but at present there need be no apprehension on that score. Between railroad and lower main levee all of the canal to full width; four to six trees and from twelve to fifteen stumps in canal; levee for about half its length in good order, and grade 18 inches above level of water in the river; balance from 12 to 18 inches below grade, and levee not strong enough. Two dredges are at work in new entrance, making channel 11 feet deep.

By direction of the general commanding, endeavors are being made to cut off the influx of water on the upper side of the upper main levee, by using barges filled with dirt and by using the dredges.

A pile-driver and machine for cutting trees under water are expected daily from Memphis; also additional grain sacks. I am very doubtful of closing the upper entrance, but think that by driving piles across the break in the canal levee, using grain bags, and then the dredges, the opening in the canal levee can be closed. The dredges can then enlarge and raise the levee between railroad and lower levee, where there always has been difficulty in obtaining material for the levee. The battery has been completed with the exception of the magazines. No work is being done on it at present, owing to the difficulty of reaching it.

Two orders, sent herewith,* show the proposed organization of pioneer companies in this department. When carried into effect, it will enable me to dispense with the contrabands now under my immediate charge, and I shall only retain Company I, Thirty-fifth Missouri Volunteers, which has done all the special work on the batteries at Corinth and the new battery here. This company and the necessary working parties at Fort Pickering will be all that will remain under my immediate charge.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer of the Army.*

P. S.—The dredges work well, and will remove all obstructions in the canal; another is expected daily. The water is still rising to-day, though slowly, notwithstanding the water drawn from the river at Yazoo Pass and also into Bayou Macon at the Arkansas line.

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STEAMER MAGNOLIA,
Young's Point, La., March 19, 1863.

GENERAL: Since my report of the 11th instant concerning the canal, an attempt was made to stop the flow of water into the canal. This was done by making a dam where necessary, by means of the dredges,

* Omitted.

around the opening through the main levee and some distance above it, leaving a gap to the east of canal entrance and perpendicular to main levee, which was to be closed by a large barge filled with earth. It was attempted to put this barge in place on the 14th, but the effort was not successful, the posts yielding and some of the lines breaking. The barge brought up against one of the dredges which had been placed within the dam for work on the canal. During the night, as there was danger the dredge would be sunk, the remaining lines were cut. Next day, as the current from the opening left for the barge was cutting through the canal levee, endeavors were made to change the course of this current by reopening the communication with the new entrance. This proved sufficient to throw the point of impact lower down, and, as the canal levee is being revetted with planks, &c., it will probably not be cut through.

One of the dredges has been employed strengthening the canal levee in the vicinity of the opening previously mentioned. This has drawn the fire of the enemy's heavy guns in prolongation of the canal, which reaches nearly to the railroad.

This greatly increased range of the enemy's artillery, and the number of their shot that fall in the canal, will probably render it necessary to alter the direction of the canal below railroad. As soon as any decision is made, I will notify the Department.

As the work on the canal will be chiefly by steam-power hereafter, and Colonel Pride, volunteer aide-de-camp, will be in charge of same, it will relieve me from the immediate superintendence of this part of my duties on his arrival here. This will enable me to repair to the Yazoo, in case operations now in progress there should render it necessary.

I have to acknowledge receipt of Department letter of March 5.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer of the Army.

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MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 11, 1863.

GENERAL: I have to report that since my letter of the 31st ultimo I have visited New Carthage, following the bayous. Walnut Bayou takes the name of Brushy Bayou at Mrs. Amis' plantation, where it receives the Brushy Bayou proper; from that point to Richmond it has many bushes and large trees in the channel. The trees, not being very close together, can be removed without much trouble, to give the required channel of from 35 feet to 40 feet. From Richmond to Smith's* plantation, on Vidal Bayou, Roundaway Bayou is leveed on the west side, but not on the opposite bank. The water is now about a foot above most of the land protected by the levee. The water flows from Johnson's *crevasse* and the break in the canal into Roundaway Bayou; at Richmond the water flows to the westward, and about half way from Richmond to Smith's plantation the water runs to the south. At Smith's plantation the water in Bayou Vidal runs to the west and to the south; about half way from Smith's plantation to Carthage the water runs north, coming from the Mississippi. A levee extends from opposite

* Smith's plantation is on Roundaway Bayou, where it runs into Bayou Vidal, and is General Osterhaus' headquarters.

Smith's plantation to New Carthage, connecting with the main levee. There are three breaks in the Vidal Bayou levee, each from 300 to 500 feet wide. The bayou from Richmond to New Carthage offers but little difficulty in obtaining the necessary water-way. At New Carthage, where there is a break in the main levee, there is for several hundred yards but a depth of 2½ or 3 feet. This can be avoided by following Harper's Bayou, branching to the southeast from Vidal Bayou, and communicating with the river by a break in the levee about one-half mile above New Carthage. General Osterhaus reports that this channel offers a depth of over 7 feet.

From the above, it seems that no water is received into Roundaway Bayou from the water passing through Tensas and Macon Bayous and the net-work of bayous connected therewith. I send herewith a sketch,* showing where the water will pass into the bayou from the river. The channel has been dug by the troops as far as practicable; a depth of 7 feet has been reached between the main level and the back-water by the aid of the steam-pump. The balance of the work to the bayou will have to be done by the dredges. The levee could be cut this day, but is delayed in order to raise portions of the road from Milliken's Bend to Richmond, which might otherwise be flooded by the influx of water from the river into the low wooded land when the levee is cut. Three companies of Bissell's engineer regiment and three pioneer companies, under Major Tweeddale, are employed clearing the bayou from Cooper's plantation to Hecla Place. This portion of the work it is hoped will be completed to-morrow. Colonel Pride has general charge of canal and bayou operations. The levee of the old canal has broken close to the main levee; the break from 30 feet has increased to over 400 feet in width.

Captain Kossak is constructing four casemate batteries in the levee opposite Vicksburg. Two casemates had been erected by Colonel Bissell, which, on inspection, I found it advisable to alter.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN, *Chief Engineer of the Army.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Milliken's Bend, La., April 18, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the following operations since my last, of 11th instant: The main levee was cut on the 13th. During the twenty-four hours subsequent the water at Hecla Place rose over 8 inches, and has been slowly rising since, though I am not informed of the rate. The rise has not been as great as I expected, but will increase when the channel is deepened through to the bayou so as to guide the current, and when the bottoms are filled. All the pioneer companies available have been put to work on clearing the bayou. Major Tweeddale reports that Bissell's four engineer companies and Spicer's pioneer company will have cleared the bayou to Richmond (to the prescribed width) by the 20th or 21st. Colonel Pride will start to-morrow morning, with a small steamboat, for Richmond. Two, and if possible three, barges, of from 100 to 120 [feet] in length, will be passed into the bayou at the same time, with pioneers on them, provided with saws to cut 6 feet under water, and other tools necessary. They will clear out any

* Not found.

obstacles they may encounter. I am afraid that it will take them from three to five days to reach Richmond. When these barges have once passed, it will enable all necessary supplies to be forwarded to New Carthage, unless prevented by a fall of the river. The river has been falling one-half inch per day for the last two days. The steamboat and barges cannot be passed through the proposed passage, as shown on sketch sent with previous letter, but will pass through field beyond small bayou (James'), and enter Walnut Bayou by wide ditch at Culbertson's plantation, as indicated by the other line of soundings. This route will be used until the other is prepared, which I deem indispensably required to keep the stage of water in Walnut Bayou as high as possible in case of a fall in the river.

Captain Kossak has completed the four casemate batteries between railroad and angle of levee north of it. The two 30-pounder (Parrott) guns opened yesterday morning, but with no very decided results.

The fire is to be continued to-day. Captain Kossak has been directed to hand in a report with respect to these batteries, which will be forwarded to the Department as soon as received.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer of the Army.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Milliken's Bend, La., May 4, 1863.

GENERAL: Since my last report, of the 18th ultimo, the water has fallen to such an extent as to prevent most of the work on the canal from being prosecuted. The two dredges at the entrance of the canal have been drawn out and brought to this point. The other two cannot be removed, one being hard aground and the other having barely enough to work into the bayou. Twenty-odd barges are in the bayou at and below Cooper's plantation, which there is but little prospect of moving to Richmond until a rise in the river. Major Tweeddale, with some four companies of his regiment and the One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois Regiment, is engaged in damming the Roundaway Bayou, below Richmond, so as to prevent the escape of water to the westward as much as possible. The change in the river level is shown by annexed statement,* obtained from Colonel Wilson's topographical office. There are two barges in the Roundaway, and Major Tweeddale thinks that, if his dam succeeds, they can be used advantageously in moving supplies from about 2 miles above Richmond to New Carthage.

On the 2d, Captain Freeman, with Lieutenant Lochbihler's company, moved to the front with the pontoon train (India-rubber)—20 pontoon wagons, 2 abutment wagons, and 1 supply wagon. No trestle pontoon of the bridge sent, as it was not ready.

The guns were withdrawn several days since from the casemates below the canal, and I am informed their casemates were burned by the enemy some two nights since. I have neglected to mention that the Victor, the small steamboat referred to in my last report, did pass through the canal and the bayou, and is now in use below New Carthage.

Colonel Pride left several days since for the North. All of the pioneer

* Omitted.

companies, except one, have been ordered to join their divisions as they proceeded to the front, and I have only four companies of Bissell's engineer regiment and the One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois, which General Sherman agrees to allow to remain until its division moves.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FREDERICK E. PRIME,
Captain of Engineers.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer of the Army.

P. S.—Captain Kossak sick from exposure and local fever. Has been ordered to Saint Louis until further instructions.

No. 5.

Report of Lieut. Col. James H. Wilson, Assistant Inspector-General, U. S. Army, Chief of Topographical Engineers, of operations April 24–May 11.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In rear of Vicksburg, Miss., May 30, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of engineer operations during the time in which I was the senior officer of engineers with the army in the field:

On April 24, having accompanied General Grant to Smith's plantation, I was directed by him to examine the route by Vidal, Negro, and Brushy Bayous to Perkins' plantation, with the view of getting a practicable line of communication to the Mississippi River.

The following is a copy of my report made to General McClernand, commanding the troops in that vicinity:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Smith's Plantation, La., April 24, 1863.

Major-General MCCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: After examination of Vidal Bayou, and consultation with Brigadier-General Hovey, I am of the opinion that, in order to cross any number of troops greater than one division to the Mississippi levees, and secure a practicable line of communication, much time will be gained by constructing two boat-bridges on the route, following Vidal, Negro, and Brushy Bayous; the one nearer the mouth of Gilbert Bayou, now in construction, and to be ready by to-morrow evening; the other between the mouths of Negro and Mound Bayous. For the construction of the latter, twelve or fourteen of the small flats now used as ferry-boats at Smith's plantation will be necessary.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON.

The bridges recommended in the above were begun and constructed by Captain Patterson, with his company of pioneers and details of men from the troops, under the direction of Brig. Gen. A. P. Hovey, commanding Fourteenth Division.

For description of these bridges I refer to the following report:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Smith's Plantation, Madison Parish, La., April 27, 1863.

Lieut. Col. J. H. WILSON:

COLONEL: In accordance with your instructions, received this morning, I proceeded to Vidal and Negro Bayous, to inspect the bridges constructed across them, and have the honor to report as follows:

The bridge over Bayou Vidal is formed of a large flat, 100 feet long and 24 feet

wide, anchored across the main channel of the bayou by a cable and chain on the southern end and braced against a tree on the northern. Ties of timber, trimmed to 6 or 8 inches thickness, are laid over the gunwales, upon which rest 8 by 12 string-pieces, supporting the planks. The next span toward either shore rests on a 12 by 12 timber, notched half into trees on either side, pinned and secured by chains. There are three more spans toward both shores, resting on trestles, each formed of four uprights, 8 inches square, secured at top and bottom to squared logs. The roadway is confined by heavy beams, pinned to the planks and string-pieces, and on the north end a wooden railway has been formed, which is, however, too smooth on the ascent to be of any advantage.

The bridge is 362 feet long, 240 feet resting on trestles and immovable, the balance afloat. If the bayou should rise or fall more than 18 inches, the connection between the floating and fixed part would be insecure, and the ascent and descent almost impracticable. The roadway is not laid exactly along the center of the flat, but rather down stream, which causes a slight sideway slope. The flat has sagged considerably, rising at the middle; but whether this is an old defect or caused by overloading the ends, I cannot say, as I could not examine it very closely, the bridge being crowded by the passage of troops. As long as the bayou remains at its present stage, I think the bridge perfectly secure.

The bridge across Negro Bayou is 550 feet long, curved up stream, and rests on sixteen flats, mostly new, from 25 to 40 feet long and 12 feet wide, with landings on trestles on either side. The boats are anchored to a 2½-inch line, stretched from shore to shore, and supported in the center by a tree. Some of the boats are fastened directly to the cable passing over their bows; others are connected with it by short ropes. The connection with both shores is effected in a manner similar to that of the Bayou Vidal bridge, including some ties resting in notches cut into trees.

Another bridge, 150 feet long, has been constructed across a slough between the two bayous. It rests on a center pier, formed of logs, placed crosswise, and on trestles on either side of the pier. The roadway is formed of split logs, and appears sufficiently firm.

Squads of pioneers are stationed at all three bridges to repair such damages as may occur. On account of the heavy rain and continual passage of troops and trains, I was unable to obtain more minute measurements.

I reported on the condition of the bridges to Major Hickenlooper, acting engineer on General McPherson's staff.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. A. ULFFERS,
Assistant Engineer.

With these two bridges, both of which were very substantial, a good road was completed from Milliken's Bend to Perkins' plantation, 8 miles below New Carthage. After the failure of the Navy, with seven iron-clads, to silence the batteries at Grand Gulf on April 29, after five and a quarter hours' cannonading, it was determined to run the six transports by that place, and march the troops to a point below.

On April 25, in accordance with instructions of General Grant, accompanied by Assistant Engineer Rigby and one regiment of infantry, I landed just above the mouth of Big Black, and carefully examined the country up to the foot of Palmyra Island, for a practicable road to the highlands. The river bottoms throughout the entire distance, several miles wide, were overflowed from 4 to 10 feet deep near the hills, so that communication, except at Congo plantation, was entirely cut off.

This plantation, lying just south of and on the Big Bogasha, is probably 18 inches higher than the bottom above and below, and protected from the freshets by a levee, extending entirely around it. It has a good road, just passable, running through it and the adjoining place to Cox's or Thompson's Ferry, over the Big Black. The two rivers in this locality are only about 2½ miles apart. The Mississippi was at that time about 3 feet below its highest mark for this season. There being no fixed plane of reference for high water, it is impossible to describe accurately at what stages this road could be used; but that part next the Big Black being unprotected by a levee, would have been entirely submerged by a slight rise in either river. The country north of the Bogasha was overflowed at the time of the reconnaissance, but the hills

coming down to the Big Black on the south side, a good landing was to be had at all times about 300 yards above the ferry at Cox's place. At this point the river did not exceed 250 feet in width, but the landings opposite being in an overflowed bottom, a bridge must have been at least 600 feet long and thrown almost lengthwise with the stream. The hills are quite steep at this place, densely timbered and overgrown by canebrakes, and about 300 feet high. The rebels had just seized upon them for defense, and begun the erection of several works, to sweep the river, the roads, and the fields beyond; but after careful personal observation and examination of negroes who had been working on the fortifications only that morning, I ascertained that only a slight parapet had been constructed and two 6-pounder field guns put in position.

The road and ferry just described afforded at that time the only means between Grand Gulf and Warrenton of reaching the high land. Upon receiving the report of my reconnaissance, General Grant requested Admiral Porter, commanding Mississippi Squadron, to send one of his iron-clads into the Big Black, with instructions to remove any obstructions that might be encountered, ascend to the ferry, and hold the crossing. In order to prevent the gunboat from being annoyed by sharpshooters, the general proposed to land a strong regiment at Congo and let it march through. The admiral declined to risk his vessel in so narrow a stream.

Subsequent events have clearly demonstrated the weakness of the rebel defenses at the ferry and along the Big Black, as well as the practicability of the route just described. It is possible that gunboats could not have entered this stream, and that it would have been too dangerous for a transport to attempt it; but the subsequent passage of Grand Gulf by the entire fleet is rather in favor of the feasibility of entering Big Black, at least by armed vessels, even under the fire of the heavy batteries at the Point of Rocks, Grand Gulf. One such vessel, under cover of another, could have crossed our troops rapidly enough for all ordinary purposes.

On April 30, the advanced corps of McClernand was landed at Bruinsburg, about 10 miles below Grand Gulf, having been ferried from the landing on the opposite shore, just below that place, by the transports and gunboats. McPherson's corps had all been ferried across by 10 a. m. of the 1st.

After the battle near Port Gibson, the rebels retreated beyond Bayou Pierre, burning the railroad bridge over the main stream, and the suspension bridges across the South and North Forks.

At 8 a. m. our advance took possession of Port Gibson, and under orders from General Grant I proceeded at once to provide means of crossing the South Fork. Smith's brigade, of Logan's division, followed by Dennis' brigade, was sent, under the guidance of a negro, to examine and cross at the ford 3 miles above the town, while the troops of McClernand's corps were to assist in constructing a bridge. The roadway of the suspension bridge having been entirely destroyed, and not needing a permanent structure, it was determined to construct a raft bridge. A point about 20 yards above the site of the old bridge was chosen. Buoyant materials in abundance were obtained by tearing down the buildings, cotton-gins, &c., in the vicinity.

At about 8.30 a. m. I applied for a brigade of infantry to do the work, and was informed by General McClernand that it should be furnished immediately. My request, under General Grant's order, was renewed several times, and each time I was informed that the detail had been made. It did not report till 12 m. The houses were torn

down, materials brought to the water, approaches prepared, and the bridge completed, so that by 4.30 p. m. the troops were in full motion across it. The stream at this place is about 5 feet deep. This bridge was simply a continuous raft 166 feet long, 12 feet wide, with three rows of large mill-beams lying across the current, and the intervals between them closely filled by buoyant timber; the whole firmly tied together by a cross-floor or deck of light 2-inch stuff. The roadway, the proper width, was made by laying the same kind of material parallel with the axis of the bridge. Side rails of 5-inch scantling were laid to keep the teams on the proper track. The approaches were over quicksand; were corduroyed and covered with earth. The abutments were formed by building a slight crib-work, and filling in with rails covered by sand.

From the very gentle current of the stream only one guy was used, and that as a simple precaution. From the structure of the bridge, and the manner in which it was joined with the shore, it was necessarily sufficiently rigid.

By 7.30 p. m. I had arrived at the Grindstone Ford, North Fork of Bayou Pierre, distant 8 miles from Port Gibson. At this place found the fine suspension bridge, similar to that at Port Gibson, in flames; but, with the assistance of the escort and a few negroes from the plantation near by, the fire was soon extinguished. I found, by an examination of the ford, that it was entirely practicable for infantry, though, from bad approaches and quicksand in places, rather difficult for cavalry or artillery. The roadway, side-truss, and string-pieces of the suspension bridge for 120 feet, beginning on the farther side near the abutments, were entirely destroyed; but the cross-ties having been recently renewed from unseasoned timber, although set on fire about 11 o'clock the night before, only four of the cross-ties were burned entirely off. They were 5 by 9 inches, and, with the exception of the four mentioned, had left from 3 to 7 inches of sound timber, quite a number being reduced to the former dimensions. The charred parts were left undisturbed, and dispositions made to construct a new roadway over the remains of the old one, so as to distribute all of the strain upon that part of the cross-ties just next to the stirrups of the suspension-rods. Several long pieces of timber, 3 by 7, were found near the bridge. These were lashed firmly to the suspension-rods by wire taken from the telegraph line, and rested on the charred cross-ties. They were made to bear equally by wedging. Timber for cross-ties was obtained near by. These were placed at intervals of 3 feet, the ends projecting a foot beyond the side rails or new string-pieces. Where the old ties were but slightly injured, wedges were placed between them and the new ones near the axis of the bridge. Five string-pieces, 3 by 7, were laid, and the road covering, of boards of various thicknesses and qualities, obtained from the farm houses near by, was then put down, secured by side rails, spiked, and lashed to their places. The roadway was made perfectly secure by rack-lashings at intervals of about 12 feet. The rope for this purpose was 5-inch grass cable, passing around the new string-pieces and cross-ties and over the suspension-chain. The lashings were drawn taut by using rack-sticks 5 feet long and twisting around the suspension-rods. The new roadway being about 10 inches above the level of the old one, ramps of the proper declivity were constructed at both ends.

The pioneer company and detail did not report till 11.30 p. m. By 5.30 a. m. the next morning the bridge was completed and the army in full march.

The greatest delay was experienced here from the difficulty of obtaining proper timber. Lieutenant-Colonel Rawlins, assistant adjutant-general of General Grant's staff, took this matter in hand, and by his vigor, activity, and personal attention during the entire night, succeeded in obtaining a sufficient supply.

Captain Hickenlooper, Fifth Ohio Battery, chief engineer of the Seventeenth Army Corps, gave most active and intelligent assistance till the work was finished. The lashings were all made under his personal supervision.

Captain Tresilian, division engineer, Third Division, was also energetic and efficient in preparing and selecting the timbers.

After the entire army had crossed, an examination revealed no perceptible injury to the bridge.

On May 11, Capt. H. C. Freeman, in charge of the pontoon train, reported to me at Cayuga. During the ensuing campaign he was directed to march with that column which inclined itself most toward Pearl River.

On May 4, Captain Tresilian repaired the bridge of boats across the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry. I submit his report herewith.*

Assistants Ulffers, Rigby, and Hartwell were actively engaged in reconnaissances and surveys. Mr. Ulffers went with dispatches, April 10, to General Banks. Captain Rigby, having been quite unwell when the army marched out of Jackson, did not accompany headquarters. He is probably a prisoner in the hands of the enemy or paroled in hospital.

First Lieut. Peter C. Hains, U. S. Engineers, and chief engineer Thirteenth Army Corps, displayed great activity and intelligence in the performance of the duties of his department. I submit herewith his report.*

During the march of Osterhaus' division and McPherson's corps from Perkins' to Hard Times Landing, several bridges were built and repaired, for particulars of which I refer you to the accompanying reports of Captain Hickenlooper* and his assistant, F. Tunica.

The inclosed map fully explains the line of march followed by the army from Milliken's Bend, embodying such topographical features as could be obtained.† Great credit is due to Maj. Otto H. Matz, Illinois volunteers, for the artistic manner in which it is executed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
First Lieut. Engrs., Lieut. Col. and Asst. Insp. Gen.

Capt. F. E. PRIME,
Chief Engineer, Department of the Tennessee.

No. 6.

Reports of Capt. Ocran H. Howard, U. S. Signal Corps, Chief Signal Officer, of operations April 3–July 4.

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE,
Memphis, Tenn., June 6, 1863.

SIR: Since the last report which I had the honor to submit, the different signal parties composing this detachment have been doing good service, both in reconnaissance and as signalists.

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* See siege of Vicksburg for the only reports of Hains, Hickenlooper, and Tresilian that have been found, but their dates indicate that they could not have been inclosures to above report.

† To appear in Atlas.

My last reported the operations of the detachment to the 9th ultimo. During the active campaign preceding the investment of Vicksburg the party serving with the army in the field accompanied it in all its marches from Grand Gulf through Port Gibson, Raymond, Black River Bridge, Jackson, and Champion's Hill to the immediate rear of Vicksburg. The country through which the route of the forces lay is generally flat and wooded, and unsuited to any extensive lines of communication by signals, and, pursuant to suggestions contained in the last annual report of the Signal Officer of the Army, the party was employed almost wholly in reconnoitering. The party was divided into four detachments, one of which was kept at General Grant's headquarters and one at each of the three corps headquarters.

From the detachment kept at general headquarters an officer was sent each day to each of the corps headquarters with instructions to obtain the result of the observations made the same day by the detachments assigned to the respective *corps d'armee*, and to report the same each evening to Major-General Grant in person.

The detachments with the various army corps were engaged each day in reconnoitering in advance, and reported by signal or courier, as was found most expedient, the result of all observations worthy of notice to the general commanding the corps. Thus each corps commander was kept well informed as to his own command and General Grant as to the whole army. The credit of this arrangement is due to Captain De Ford.

Upon the arrival of the army at the rear of Vicksburg, Captain De Ford caused communications to be opened from Snyder's Bluff, where the right of the army rested, to Admiral Porter's flag-ship, lying in the Yazoo, a distance of 4 or 5 miles. The station on the bluff was occupied by Captain McClintock and Lieutenant Fisher, and the one on the flag-ship by Captain Hoyt and Lieutenant Magner. They did, and are still doing, valuable service. A line was also established from General Grant's headquarters to the extreme left, but the peculiar topography of the country necessitated so many stations that, in the opinion of Captain De Ford, this line was nearly useless, as a courier could ride over the line in less time than a message could be transmitted in the usual manner. He consequently recalled the officers stationed on this line. The resignation of Captain De Ford at this time placed Captain Rose in command of the party, he being the senior officer present. Captain Rose immediately re-established the line to the left, together with some other important lines.

The following is a copy of a report received from him, showing the present locations of the lines and the operations of the party since he assumed command:

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, ARMY IN THE FIELD, DEPT. OF THE TENN.,
Rear of Vicksburg, Miss., May 31, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that this detachment has, since I assumed command, been doing good service, having been at work almost constantly day and night. We have now three lines in good working order, and officers and men are all taking an interest in their duties.

Our line to Haynes' Bluff is of the greatest importance, as it is the only means of communication with the two divisions of our troops in that part of the country, stationed there to observe the movements of General Johnston's forces in our rear. The best officers I have are on this line, and it works to a charm.

The line from General Grant's headquarters to Young's Point, La., is of the utmost importance; it is the means of communication between the army and the navy. Admiral Porter is highly pleased with the corps.

The line from General Grant's headquarters to the Yazoo Landing, the depot of supplies for the use of the medical, commissary, quartermaster's, and ordnance departments, is, of course, of much utility.

The line from the end of the telegraph line, reaching to the extreme left, is not much used, but is important to be kept open.

Inclosed I send you a small plat, showing the different lines.

Our officers are all busy at present, but the telegraph will relieve some of them soon. I noticed five signal officers with the Marine Brigade as they passed up the Yazoo.

We are at present well supplied with all kinds of stores, transportation, &c.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. M. ROSE,
Captain and Chief Acting Signal Officer.

Captain Rose also reports that the most commendable zeal is evinced by the officers and men of his command, and he feels confident that each officer will do all in his power to second him in all his efforts to promote the honor and efficiency of the corps.

The signal party under Lieutenant Wilson, serving with the Mississippi Marine Brigade, is also doing good service.

The brigade is on transports, which sail in company. The only and constant means of communication from boat to boat is by signals. This command served on the Mississippi and Tennessee Rivers, and has been variously employed between Nashville and Vicksburg. Below is a copy of the last report received from that party:

U. S. STEAMER ADAMS,
Off Helena, Ark., May 25, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report:

Early on the morning of the 24th instant a part of General Ellet's brigade landed at Austin, a small town some 15 miles above Helena, for the purpose of chastising a band of rebels who had at that place captured and burned a small trading-boat the day previous.

Lieutenant Warren and myself proceeded with the forces, hoping that in case of action to be able to do something for the service. When 3 miles out, the advance came upon the enemy, concealed in a thick wood, when quite a severe skirmish ensued, resulting in the rout of the enemy, with the loss of several of their number killed. Owing to the dense wood and underbrush, Lieutenant Warren and myself were employed as aides, scouts, and with skirmishers, an opportunity not occurring in which we could use signals.

I have also the honor to state that I have submitted a similar report to General Ellet.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. W. WILSON,
Acting Signal Officer in Charge.

When the brigade is in the vicinity of Vicksburg, General Ellet communicates by signal with General Grant.

That portion of the detachment now here in camp of instruction will be ready for the field as soon as they can be equipped. I shall then take the field myself in charge of them.

A duplicate report of the operations of this detachment will be made, embodying an account of all its operations, as soon as the fate of Vicksburg is decided, and in time to accompany General Grant's official report of the campaign.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

O. H. HOWARD,
Captain and Acting Chief Signal Officer.

CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER U. S. ARMY, *Washington, D. C.*

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Vicksburg, Miss., August 28, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to hand you herewith a report of the operations of that portion of this corps that was in active service in the

vicinity of Vicksburg during the campaign which ended in the fall of that city:

Handing you this report at this late hour involves the necessity, or, at least, the expediency, of stating the reasons why it was not presented at the proper time, or immediately upon the termination of the campaign. They are as follows:

The officers in immediate charge of the corps with your army, and whose duty it was to make the report, were Capt. J. W. De Ford, who resigned during the operations in the rear of the city; Capt. L. M. Rose, who was forced by illness to leave the department before the end of the campaign, and Capt. J. M. McClintock, upon whom the command devolved at a very late period, and who was, no doubt, unmindful that a report of the campaign would be required of him.

As to myself, I was, previous to the capitulation, ordered to Washington, and have but lately returned therefrom. I have endeavored, with the data at my command, to make as plain a statement as possible of the duties performed by the corps, and trust that any deficiency therein may be attributed not to a lack of desire to do justice to the officers and men who compose it, but to my lack of opportunity to provide myself with such complete data as I should have had, and such as I shall feel it my duty to keep hereafter.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. HOWARD,
Captain and Chief Signal Officer.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. SIGNAL CORPS, DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE,
Vicksburg, Miss., August 25, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this corps from the time of its reporting for duty in charge of Capt. J. W. De Ford, at Young's Point, La., on April 3, up to the time of the surrender of Vicksburg, July 4, 1863:

On April 3, a line of communication by signals was opened from Milliken's Bend to the foot of the old canal, over which many important official messages were transmitted to different points on the line, and to Admiral Porter's flag-ship, where an officer of the corps was permanently stationed.

At a point on this line directly opposite Vicksburg a station of observation was established. The officer in charge of this station was instructed to report everything of interest occurring in the town and within the enemy's lines to the commanding general.

On April 7, a line was opened from General Grant's headquarters, then at Milliken's Bend, through General McPherson's headquarters, to General Osterhaus', at Richmond. This line was used as a means of communication between those points until the removal of General Osterhaus' command to Grand Gulf. From a point in this line another was projected to New Carthage, and opened as far as Holmes' plantation, but was not long in operation when the advancing of the army caused it to be abandoned. During the time that the main body of the army remained upon this side of the river, these lines were in considerable use as a means of communication between the different headquarters. With one or two exceptions, the officers employed on them performed then and there their first duty in the field as signal officers, but by their

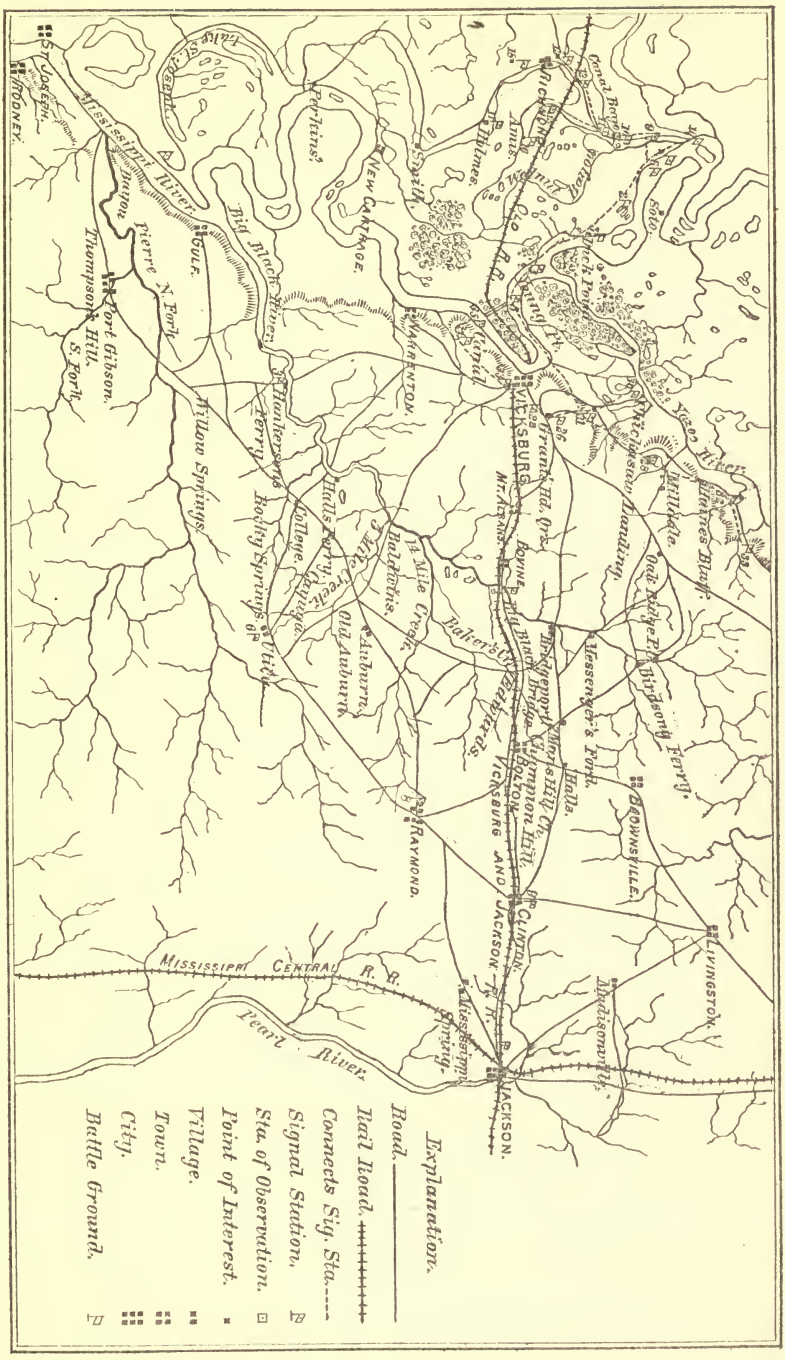
zeal and activity they made up in a great degree for their lack of experience, and acquitted themselves very creditably.

On the night of the running of the blockade by the gunboats, First Lieutenant [William H.] Sherfy reported for duty on board the Benton, on which he passed the batteries, in readiness to communicate with the signal officers on shore, should it be necessary.

On May 1, a party of 8 officers, in charge of First Lieut. Samuel S. Sample, was directed by Captain De Ford to report for duty to Major-General Grant, at Hard Times Landing. This party reached the general's headquarters, on the road between Thompson's Hill and Port Gibson. By direction of the general commanding, two officers were dispatched thence to the landing at Bruinsburg, to open communication with the opposite shore. This line was immediately opened to Hard Times Landing, and remained open for four or five days, during the crossing of the Seventeenth Army Corps. Near Port Gibson the officers were assigned to Generals McPherson, Logan, and Crocker, a party still remaining with the commanding general. The officers were thus assigned for duty either as signalists or upon reconnaissances. The army being now in motion, and the country being ill-adapted to any extensive lines of communication by field signals, the officers reconnoitered the country as far in advance of the army as possible, and established stations of observation upon such points as were suitable for that purpose.

During the march of the army from Port Gibson to Rocky Springs, the officers of the corps were constantly on duty, reconnoitering the country in front and reporting the result of their observations to commanders to whom they were assigned. Lieutenants [Cyrus M.] Roberts and [Jacob P.] Sampson, with General Logan, and Lieutenant Irvin, with General Crocker, are entitled to notice for zeal displayed and services rendered during this time. These officers, together with Lieutenants Morris and [William C.] Magner, with Major-General McPherson, were complimented by that officer for services rendered during that march.

When General Grant reached Grand Gulf, a line was opened in ten minutes to Hard Times Landing, affording the general a means of communication between those points during his stay. This line was in constant use. When the army reached Hankinson's Ferry, Lieutenant Sample, who remained with General Grant, reconnoitered the country as far as Rocky Springs and Hall's Ferry, and, when the army reached the former place, proceeded to Cayuga and established a station of observation at that point; thence, when the advance reached Cayuga, to New Auburn, passing, in so doing, 3 miles inside of the enemy's pickets, capturing the enemy's dispatches, and returning by the same route. At Five-Mile Creek the remainder of the corps, in charge of Captain De Ford, reached headquarters from Grand Gulf. At the battle of Raymond, a detachment of the corps, under command of Capt. L. M. Rose, took an active part, and were complimented for their activity, bravery, and reliability. At Raymond the corps was divided into four detachments, and a detachment assigned to each army corps (the Thirteenth, Fifteenth, and Seventeenth), in charge, respectively, of Lieutenant Irvin, Captain McClintock, and Captain Rose, while the fourth remained with General Grant, in charge of the commandant of the corps, to visit each day the detachments with the different army corps, reporting the result of the reconnaissances performed by each party to General Grant at night. A station of observation was established on the cupola of the court-house at Raymond by Lieutenant [Gustav B.] Gryden. The


Explanation.
Road.
Rail Road.
Connects Sig. Sta.
Signal Station.
Sta. of Observation.
Point of Interest.
Village.
Town.
City.
Battle Ground.
VICKSBURG
JACKSON
CLINTON
RAYMOND
BROWNSVILLE
LIVINGSTON
Madisonville
Mississippi Springs
Pearl River
MISSISSIPPI CENTRAL R. R.
VICKSBURG AND JACKSON R. R.
Walnut Hills
Haines Bluff
Snyder's Bluff
Chickasaw Bayou
Chickasaw Bluffs
Johnson's Plantation
Gen'l Sherman's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l McPherson's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Blair's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Steele's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Ransom's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Logan's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Lauman's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Hovey's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Crocker's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Quinby's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Osterhaus's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Carr's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Smith's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Lawler's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Tuttle's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Ord's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Hurlbut's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Stevenson's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Parke's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Wood's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Shaler's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Boomer's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Slack's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Sherman's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l McPherson's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Blair's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Steele's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Ransom's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Logan's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Lauman's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Hovey's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Crocker's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Quinby's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Osterhaus's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Carr's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Smith's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Lawler's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Tuttle's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Ord's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Hurlbut's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Stevenson's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Parke's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Wood's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Shaler's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Boomer's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Slack's Hd. Qrs.
Yazoo River
Big Black River
Mississippi River
Gulf
Pierre N. Fork
Thompson's Hill
S. Fork
Fort Gibson
Willow Springs
Rocky Springs
Utica
Old Auburn
Auburn
Bolton
Clinton
Jackson
Madisonville
Livingston
Brownsville
Birdsong Ferry
Hankerson's Ferry
Hall's Ferry
Baldwin's Ferry
Bridgeport
Hessenaver's Ferry
Bolton
Vicksburg and Jackson R. R.
Mississippi Central R. R.
Pearl River
Gen'l Sherman's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l McPherson's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Blair's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Steele's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Ransom's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Logan's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Lauman's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Hovey's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Crocker's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Quinby's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Osterhaus's Hd. Qrs.
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Gen'l Lawler's Hd. Qrs.
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Gen'l Ord's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Hurlbut's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Stevenson's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Parke's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Wood's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Shaler's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Boomer's Hd. Qrs.
Gen'l Slack's Hd. Qrs.

detachment with the Thirteenth Army Corps remained with that corps at Raymond, while those with the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps moved forward to Jackson. On the approach of the army to Clinton, Lieutenant Sample, with one enlisted man, without support, reconnoitered the road within one-half mile of Clinton, and when the skirmishers reached that point, he, with Captain Hoyt, acting signal officer and an officer of the Fifth Iowa, was the first to enter the town. A station of observation was immediately established, which overlooked the road in the direction of Jackson as far as the enemy's pickets, when the army entered Jackson next morning by different roads. Much good work was done by officers of the corps during the engagement which took place. Lieutenant [Clifford] Stickney, with Captain [Julius] Pitzman, engineer of General Sherman's staff, was the first to enter the city, and captured some 20 prisoners. Of the detachment with the Seventeenth Army Corps, Lieutenant [Thaddeus C.] Withers was the first to enter the enemy's works, and Captain McClintock the first to raise the Stars and Stripes on the State capitol. While the Fifteenth Corps remained at Jackson, Lieutenant Sample made a reconnaissance of the country for 3½ miles in the direction of Canton, meeting the enemy's lookouts, and afterward in the direction of Livingston for 4 miles, leaving the advancing army at Clinton.

At the battle of Champion's Hill the officers were active, and rendered very efficient service. Lieutenant Roberts was engaged in signaling while he could do so, and afterward served on the staff of General Logan, and was complimented by that general for his activity and bravery. Lieutenant Sampson, from a station at General McPherson's headquarters, communicated by signals to the right of the line, to a station which was established and worked by Lieutenants McNary and Morris, until the retreat of the enemy. Lieutenants Irvin and Gryden should also be mentioned for their services during this engagement.

Two days thereafter, Lieutenant Irvin led the advance guard after crossing the Big Black, reaching Bovina 2 miles in advance of the army.

When taking position in the rear of Vicksburg, Lieutenants Sample, Sherfy, and White performed important duties for the general commanding.

As soon as the troops were in position, Captain Rose and others opened communication from headquarters Thirteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps to General Grant's headquarters, which line remained in operation for some time, and over it many communications of importance passed.

The line from Chickasaw Bluffs to Young's Point, established by Captain McClintock and Lieutenant Magner, was of the first importance, as the only available means of communication between General Grant and Admiral Porter.

A line was partially opened from General Grant's headquarters to Haynes' Bluff by Lieutenant Gryden and others, but the removal of the forces from the latter point caused this to be abandoned before its completion. Desiring to improve the communication between headquarters and the station at Chickasaw Bluffs, Lieutenant Sample, upon a reconnaissance for that purpose, found it expedient to make important alterations in the whole line, and communication was opened by him to Haynes' Bluff (that point being reoccupied), Chickasaw Landing, and Young's Point through stations Nos. 27, 28, and 31, on the accompanying map.*

* See p. 135.

These lines were in constant use, transmitting messages of the first importance—the Chickasaw Landing and Haynes' Bluff lines until relieved by the telegraph, and the line to Young's Point till the surrender of Vicksburg.

Lieutenant Sampson deserves particular mention for the manner in which he conducted affairs at his station, at General Grant's headquarters.

During the occupation and fortification of Haynes' Bluff, a detachment in charge of Lieutenant Sample was directed to report for duty to Major-General Washburn, commanding that post; reconnoitered lines to advance cavalry pickets and to Big Black River railroad bridge, and pronounced communication by signals practicable; but General Osterhaus, commanding at bridge, not desiring communication, General Grant directed that the line should not be established, as he had other use for the signal force. A party was then ordered to open a line from General McPherson's headquarters (from which communication was had with General Grant by telegraph) to Major-General Herron, near Warrenton. This line was opened and used for a time, when another was opened from General Herron to the gunboats, which remained open and in use until the surrender of Vicksburg. The party with General Washburn were constantly on duty with the troops stationed at different points; reconnoitered the whole country from Haynes' Bluff to Big Black River railroad bridge, where they were at the surrender of Vicksburg.

Captains De Ford, Rose, and McClintock, who were at different times in immediate charge of the corps, have in many instances spoken in the highest terms of the activity and zeal displayed by the officers and men, and of the alacrity with which they performed the duties assigned them, sometimes the most arduous and trying.

To the officers and men of this corps, many of whom are now prostrated by illness from fatigue and exposure during the campaign, but who bore up manfully until the great object was obtained; who, fresh from the camp of instruction, there performed their first duty as signal officers, and who, under the most trying circumstances, unaided by previous experience, have, by persevering toil, overthrown or turned aside obstacles which would have appeared discouraging to more experienced officers, and who have patiently and bravely performed their whole duty, I am under the highest obligations.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. HOWARD,
Captain and Chief Signal Officer.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

No. 7.

Reports of Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand, U. S. Army, commanding Thirteenth Army Corps, of operations March 30–June 17, with resulting correspondence.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Battle-field, near Vicksburg, Miss., June 17, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the principal operations of the forces with me since March 30 last, in compliance with instructions from department headquarters to that effect.

These forces consist of a portion of the Thirteenth Army Corps, and comprise four divisions, organized as follows, viz:

NINTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. P. J. OSTERHAUS.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. T. T. GARRARD.

118th Illinois.
49th Indiana.
69th Indiana.
7th Kentucky.
120th Ohio.

Second Brigade.

Col. L. A. SHELDON (42d Ohio).

54th Indiana.
22d Kentucky.
16th Ohio.
42d Ohio.
114th Ohio.

Artillery.

7th Michigan Battery.
1st Wisconsin Battery.

Cavalry.

3d Illinois, Companies A and K.

TENTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. A. J. SMITH.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. S. G. BURBRIDGE.

16th Indiana.
60th Indiana.
67th Indiana.
83d Ohio.
96th Ohio.
23d Wisconsin.

Second Brigade.

Col. W. J. LANDRAM (19th Kentucky).

77th Illinois.
97th Illinois.
108th Illinois.
130th Illinois.
19th Kentucky.
48th Ohio.

Artillery.

Chicago Mercantile Battery.
17th Ohio Battery.

Cavalry.

4th Indiana, Company [C].

TWELFTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. A. P. HOVEY.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. G. F. MCGINNIS.

11th Indiana.
24th Indiana.
34th Indiana.
46th Indiana.
29th Wisconsin.

Second Brigade.

Col. J. R. SLACK (47th Indiana).

47th Indiana.
24th Iowa.
28th Iowa.
56th Ohio.

Artillery.

Peoria Light Battery.
1st Missouri, Battery A.
2d Ohio Battery.
16th Ohio Battery.

Cavalry.

1st Indiana, Company C.

FOURTEENTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. E. A. CARR.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. W. P. BENTON.

33d Illinois.
99th Illinois.
8th Indiana.
18th Indiana.
1st United States.

Second Brigade.

Brig. Gen. M. K. LAWLER.

21st Iowa.
22d Iowa.
23d Iowa.
11th Wisconsin.

Artillery.

1st Indiana Battery.

Cavalry.

3d Illinois, Companies E and F.

Detachments of the Second and Third Illinois, and the Sixth Missouri, also form part of my immediate command.

After several fruitless efforts to penetrate the State of Mississippi above Vicksburg and turn the rear of that city, it became a question of extreme interest and importance whether a point below on the Mississippi River might not be reached, from which the same result might be accomplished.

My corps, happily, was in favorable condition to test this question. It was inspired by an eager desire to prove its usefulness, and impatiently awaited an opportunity to do so. Sharing with it in this feeling, I was more than rejoiced in permission to essay an effort to cross the peninsula opposite Vicksburg from Milliken's Bend to New Carthage.

MILLIKEN'S BEND TO NEW CARTHAGE.

Accordingly, on March 29 [30 ?], I ordered General Osterhaus to send forward a detachment of infantry, artillery, and cavalry, to surprise and capture Richmond, the capital of Madison Parish, Louisiana.

On the morning of the 30th [31st],* Colonel Bennett, with the Sixty-ninth Indiana, a section of artillery, and a detachment of the Second Illinois Cavalry, took up the line of march in execution of this order. By 2 p.m. he had marched 12 miles over a miry road, and reached the bank of Roundaway Bayou, opposite Richmond.

Artillery first and infantry next opened fire on the small force garrisoning the town, and immediately dislodged it. A portion of the cavalry, dismounting from their horses, sprang into the small boats brought along on wagons, and, paddling them across the bayou with the butts of their carbines, hastened to occupy the town. Hot pursuit of the fugitive enemy was soon after made by another portion of the cavalry, who swam their horses over the bayou. Seven of the enemy were wounded, four of whom fell into our hands.

This spirited and successful attack was consummated under my own observation, and effectually cut off the wonted supplies transported through Richmond from the rich tracts traversed by the Tensas River and Bayou Macon to Vicksburg.

On the night of the 3d, a bridge 200 feet long, made of logs taken from houses, had been thrown across Roundaway Bayou at Richmond by the pioneer corps, under Captain [William F.] Patterson. This was the work of twenty-four hours, and a way being thus opened, the remainder of General Osterhaus' division was rapidly moved forward, and so disposed as to cover and hold the only practicable land route between Milliken's Bend and Smith's plantation, 2 miles north of New Carthage.

Meantime many obstacles were overcome, old roads were repaired, new ones made, boats constructed for the transportation of men and supplies, 20 miles of levee sleeplessly guarded day and night, and every possible precaution used to prevent the rising flood from breaking through the levee and ingulfing us. Other obstacles also opposed our advance. Harrison's rebel cavalry, supported by a detachment of infantry, were active and vigilant to prevent it; but, after having been repeatedly repulsed, on the 4th fled across Bayou Vidal, and returned to their camp at Perkins' plantation, on the Mississippi, 6 miles below Carthage.

On the same day, embarking in a skiff at Smith's plantation, and accompanied by General Osterhaus and a few members of our respective

* See Osterhaus' report, p. 489.

staffs, I made a reconnaissance, terminating only half a mile from New Carthage and the river, and in full view of both. We discovered the country to be deluged from Smith's plantation, where Bayous Vidal and Roundaway unite, and whence they communicate by a common channel with the Mississippi near Carthage; also that the levee extending from Bayou Vidal to Carthage and the Mississippi was broken and crossed by rapid currents at three different places. Upon our approach to the last *crevasse*, half a mile from Carthage, we were fired on by the enemy and our skiff stopped, but not until we had ascertained that steamers could pass from the Mississippi to Smith's plantation, and that by such means our forces could be transferred from Smith's to the Mississippi shore.

Having thus determined this important point, on the 5th a flat-boat was wrested from the enemy on Bayou Vidal, 8 miles below Smith's, and brought to the latter place.

On the 6th, after the boat had been hastily prepared to receive them, a small party, with two mountain howitzers, were embarked, and moved forward to dislodge the enemy from Carthage. Upon the approach of the boat within range of her armament, the enemy hastily evacuated Carthage, and took refuge 1½ miles below, among a number of buildings on James' plantation. Rapidly disembarking, the party pursued and again dislodged him, killing a rebel lieutenant and taking possession of the buildings.

On the 7th, General Osterhaus pressed his advantages by sending forward artillery and shelling the woods across Bayou Vidal in the neighborhood of Dunbar's plantation, and dislodging the enemy's sharpshooters.

In turn, on the 8th the enemy took the offensive, and sought to dislodge the detachment at James'. For this purpose he opened two 12-pounder howitzers upon it, but after an hour had been spent in fruitless endeavors, again fell back to Perkins'.

On the 9th, Lieutenant Stickel, with a company of the Second Illinois Cavalry, while scouring the country westward toward the Tensas, fell in with a recruiting party of the enemy, and succeeded in capturing 3 officers and 1 private.

Having been considerably strengthened by re-enforcements, supposed to have been sent from Grand Gulf, on the east bank of the Mississippi, the enemy on the 15th sought to reinstate his line between Perkins' and Dunbar's plantations, the latter place being 8 miles from Perkins' and the same distance from Smith's. For this purpose he divided his force, directing one portion across Mill Bayou against our rear, in the neighborhood of Dunbar's, and the remainder against the detachment at James'.

Our pickets near Dunbar's, upon the approach of the enemy, fell back upon their reserves, who, being rapidly re-enforced, promptly attacked and forced the enemy to recross Mill Bayou, taking 2 prisoners, and losing 1 killed and 1 wounded of the Second Illinois Cavalry. Thus failing at this point, that portion of the enemy operating in front of James' also retreated.

Up to this time I had been restrained from throwing any considerable portion of my forces upon the river, for want of any other means than a few skiffs and other small boats, and because, in the absence of gunboats to protect them, while limited by the flood to the occupancy of the Mississippi levee, they would have been exposed to destruction by the gunboats of the enemy, then supposed to be cruising near New Carthage.

To supply the means of moving my forces from Smith's to Carthage, and across the Mississippi to some point from which operations could be directed against Vicksburg, and also of affording them needed protection against river attack, I ventured earnestly to urge the pressing and transcendent importance of forwarding steam transports and gunboats from their moorings above Vicksburg below to Carthage.

Happily, on the 17th, my recommendation was responded to by the appearance of three transports and seven gunboats, and on the 22d by three more transports, all of which had run the blockade. A number of barges, having started in tow of the transports, had been cut loose on the way, and were caught and brought to by parties from General Osterhaus' division, who went out in skiffs for that purpose. Nor should I omit to add that during the advance of my forces from Milliken's Bend they subsisted in large part upon the country through which they passed, and seized and sent back as a forfeiture to the United States a large quantity of cotton owned by the rebel Government. The increased facilities afforded by the transports and barges alluded to hastened the removal of the Ninth Division from Smith's to Carthage. The Fourteenth Division followed from Milliken's Bend to the same place; also the Tenth Division to Smith's and a part of it to Carthage. The rest of the Tenth Division rested near Smith's until a land route had been opened 10 miles from there to Perkins'. The Twelfth Division, which only arrived at Milliken's Bend on the 14th, followed to Smith's, and was followed from there to Perkins' by the rest of the Tenth, a large part of the trains of the whole corps, and afterward by the Seventeenth and Fifteenth Army Corps.

The last 5 miles of the route from Smith's to Perkins' was obstructed by numerous bayous. To accelerate the general movement, General Hovey undertook the experiment of overcoming these obstacles; but, in order to do so, he had to construct nearly 2,000 feet of bridging out of materials created, for the most part, on the occasion. This he did within the short space of three days and nights, thus extending and completing the great military road across the peninsula from the Mississippi above to the Mississippi 40 miles below Vicksburg. The achievement is one of the most remarkable occurring in the annals of war, and justly ranks among the highest examples of military energy and perseverance.

On the 22d, receiving a communication from Admiral Porter informing me that he would attack the enemy at Grand Gulf on the following morning, and requesting me to send an infantry force to occupy the place when he had silenced the enemy's guns, I directed General Osterhaus immediately to embark his division on all available boats and to co-operate with the gunboats in carrying into effect the purpose mentioned. In prompt execution of my order, General Osterhaus embarked his division during the night of the 22d; but Admiral Porter informing me in the morning that further observation had convinced him that the enemy were in much stronger force than he at first supposed, and that more extensive preparations on the part of our land and naval forces were required than could be immediately made, the contemplated attack was postponed.

On the 23d, accompanied by General Osterhaus, I made a personal reconnaissance of the enemy's works and position at Grand Gulf, on board the gunboat General Price, which had been kindly placed at my disposal for that purpose by Admiral Porter, and found them very strong.

On the 24th, in obedience to my order, General Osterhaus sent a de-

tachment of the Second Illinois Cavalry, under Major Marsh, and the Forty-ninth Indiana and the One hundred and fourteenth Ohio Infantry, together with a section of artillery, all under command of Colonel Keigwin, to reconnoiter the country between Perkins' and the mouth of Bayou Pierre, and to examine into the practicability of expediting the general movement by marching troops across the country to the mouth of that stream. The expedition was frequently interrupted by rebel cavalry, but not until reaching a point on the west side of Bruin's Lake did it meet any considerable resistance. Here the cavalry of the enemy, 600 or 700 strong, with several pieces of masked cannon, drawn up in line of battle on the opposite side of Choctaw Bayou, made a resolute stand. A desultory fight, however, of four hours served to dislodge him and leave us master of the field. Thence the detachment continued its march to Hard Times, 15 miles below Perkins' and 3 miles above Grand Gulf; thence the cavalry marched across Coffee Point to D'Schron's plantation, 3 miles below Grand Gulf, and on to a point opposite Bruinsburg, the landing for Port Gibson, 12 miles below Grand Gulf, thus demonstrating the existence of a practicable land route from Perkins' to a point opposite Bruinsburg. The whole or a portion of the Seventeenth Army Corps afterwards followed to D'Schron's, and so the Fifteenth as far as Hard Times.

Having concentrated my whole corps at Perkins', on the 28th, without wagons, baggage, tents, or officers' horses, which were left behind for want of means of river transportation, the whole of it, except the detachment at Hard Times and two regiments ordered to remain at Perkins' as a garrison, embarked on steamers and barges, including the gunboat General Price, for Grand Gulf. Arriving at Hard Times that evening, they rested there during the night on boats and on shore.

THE ATTACK ON GRAND GULF.

On the morning of the 29th, the gunboats steamed 3 miles down the river to Grand Gulf, and, closely approaching the enemy's batteries, opened fire upon them. The Ninth, Tenth, and Twelfth Divisions of my corps followed on transports, casting anchor in full view of the Gulf, and holding themselves in readiness to push forward and disembark the moment the enemy's water batteries should be silenced and a footing for them thus secured. General Carr's division remained at Hard Times, waiting for the return of transports to bring them on, too. At the termination of a daring and persistent bombardment of five and a half hours, the enemy's principal batteries had not been silenced, several of the gunboats had been crippled, and all of them were drawn off. Returning to Hard Times, the Ninth, Tenth, and Twelfth Divisions disembarked, and, together with the Fourteenth Division, crossed over the point opposite Grand Gulf that evening and night to D'Schron's. The same night the gunboats, transports, and barges ran the blockade at Grand Gulf and landed at D'Schron's.

If the attack upon Grand Gulf had succeeded, it would have secured either or both of two objects: First, a base for operations against the rear of Vicksburg, and, secondly, safety in re-enforcing General Banks, at Port Hudson. But failing, it became important to gain a footing at some other favorable point. The reconnaissance made by my cavalry, in pursuance of your order, indicated Bruinsburg to be that point. Hence, embarking on the morning of the 30th, my corps immediately proceeded to that place, and disembarked before noon, only halting long enough to draw and distribute three days' rations.

At 4 o'clock all my corps, except the cavalry on the opposite side of the river, took up the line of march, agreeably to instructions from Major-General Grant, for the bluffs, some 3 miles back. Reaching the bluffs some time before sunset, and deeming it important to surprise the enemy if he should be found in the neighborhood of Port Gibson, and, if possible, to prevent him from destroying the bridges over Bayou Pierre on the road leading to Grand Gulf and to Jackson, I determined to push on by a forced march that night as far as practicable.

About 1 o'clock on the morning of May 1, upon approaching Magnolia Church, 13 miles from Bruinsburg and 4 miles from Port Gibson, General Carr's division, leading the advance, was accosted by a light fire from the enemy's infantry, and soon after by the fire of his artillery. Harris' brigade, the command of which had devolved upon Colonel Stone, of the Twenty-second Iowa, in consequence of the illness of the former, was immediately formed in line of battle, Griffiths' and Klauss' batteries brought up, and the enemy's fire briskly replied to and silenced. The division rested upon its arms at Shaiffer's plantation during the short remnant of the night.

Coming up about day-dawn in the morning, I learned from a fugitive negro that the two roads diverging at Shaiffer's led to Port Gibson, one to the right by Magnolia Church, and the other to the left, passing near Bayou Pierre, where it is spanned by a rail and earth-road bridge; also that the greatest distance between the roads was only some 2 miles; that the space between, and for miles around, was diversified by fields, thick woods, abrupt hills, and deep ravines, and that the enemy was in force in front and intended to accept battle. I immediately proved the general correctness of this information by further inquiry and by personal reconnaissance, and determined to advance my forces upon the cord of the rude ellipse formed by the roads, resting my reserves back near the forks of the roads.

After the smoke of the previous engagement and the glimmering of the rising sun had ceased to blind our view, I ordered General Osterhaus to move his division on the road to the left, to relieve a detachment of General Carr's division which had been sent to watch the enemy in that direction, and to attack the enemy's right. The object of this movement was to secure whatever direct advantage might result from attacking the enemy's line at a point supposed to be comparatively weak, and to make a diversion in favor of my right, preparatory to its attack upon the strong force understood to be in its front.

The First Brigade of General Osterhaus' division, hastening forward in execution of this order, at 5.30 a. m. encountered the enemy in considerable force a short distance from Shaiffer's house. The position of the enemy was a strong one, and he seemed determined to maintain it; yet, after an obstinate struggle for more than an hour, he was forced to yield and seek temporary safety at a greater distance, under a cover of ravines and houses.

The splendid practice of Lanphere's and Foster's batteries disabled two of the enemy's guns, which were with difficulty withdrawn, and contributed largely to this success.

Communicating with General Osterhaus, I offered him re-enforcements, but his Second Brigade having now come up, he declined them until more urgent occasion should arise. Thus strengthened, he pressed forward until insurmountable obstacles in the nature of the ground and its exposure to the fire of the enemy arrested his progress, and proved the impracticability of successful front attack.

It was now 2 p. m., and about this time General J. E. Smith's brigade,

of General Logan's division, came up, and attempting to carry the enemy's position by such an attack, failed to do so, thus attesting the correctness of General Osterhaus' admonition upon that point.

A flank movement had been resolved upon by General Osterhaus to accomplish the same object. With the view to deceive the enemy, he caused his right center to be threatened, and, taking advantage of the effect, rapidly moved a strong force toward his extreme right, and personally leading a brilliant charge against it, routed the enemy, taking three pieces of cannon. A detachment of General Smith's brigade joined in the pursuit of the enemy to a point within a half mile of Port Gibson.

BATTLE OF PORT GIBSON.

At 6.15 a. m., when sufficient time had elapsed to allow Osterhaus' first attack to work a diversion in favor of my right, I ordered General Carr to attack the enemy's left. General Benton's brigade promptly moved forward to the right of the main road to Port Gibson. His way lay through woods, ravines, and a light canebrake; yet he pressed on until he found the enemy drawn up behind the crest of a range of hills intersected by the road. Upon one of these hills, in plain view, stood Magnolia Church. The hostile lines immediately opened on each other, and an obstinate struggle ensued. Meanwhile Stone's brigade moved forward, on and to the left of the road, into an open field, and opened with artillery upon the enemy's left center.

The action was now general, except at the center, where a continuation of fields, extending to the front of my line for more than a mile, separated the antagonists. The enemy had not dared to show himself in these fields, but continued to press my extreme right, with the hope, as I subsequently learned, of crushing it and closing his concave line around me.

General Hovey came up at an opportune moment, and reported his division to be on the ground. I immediately ordered him to form it in two lines near the fork of the two roads, and to hold it there for further orders. About the time it had been thus formed, General Smith's division came up, and General Hovey was ordered to advance his division to the support of General Carr's. In the execution of this order, General McGinnis' brigade moved to the right front, in support of Benton's, encountering the same obstacles that had been overcome by the latter. Colonel Slack's brigade moved by the flank near the main road, and without much difficulty gained its proper position to the left of McGinnis.

During the struggle between Benton's brigade and the enemy, the former had moved to the right to secure its flank, and left a considerable gap between it and Stone's. This gap was immediately closed up by a portion of General Hovey's division upon its arrival upon the ground assigned to it. The enemy's artillery was only 150 yards in front, and was supported by a strong line of infantry, which, it was reported, had just been re-enforced, and was the occasion of the shout of the enemy distinctly heard about this time.

To terminate a sanguinary contest which had continued for several hours, General Hovey ordered a charge, which was most gallantly executed, and resulted in the capture of 400 prisoners, two stand of colors, two 12-pounder howitzers, three caissons, and a considerable quantity of ammunition.* A portion of General Carr's division joined in this charge. About this time I heard that Major-General Grant had come up from

* See Carr to Rawlins, July 22, 1863, appended to Carr's report of the battle of Port Gibson, p. 623.

Bruinsburg, and soon after had the pleasure of meeting him on the field.

Determined to press my advantages, I ordered Generals Carr and Hovey to push the enemy with all vigor and celerity. This they did, beating him back over a mile, and frustrating all his endeavors to make an intermediate stand.

For particular mention of the regiments, companies, officers, and men who distinguished themselves in this daring charge, I would refer to the reports of these generals.

Returning to bring up the narrative of other operations, General Smith's division came up to Schaiffer's about 7 a. m., and just before General Hovey's moved to the support of General Carr's. The four divisions of my corps were now upon the field, three of them actually engaged, and the fourth eager to be. The last immediately moved forward into the fields in front of Schaiffer's house, and, together with a portion of General Osterhaus' division, held the center, and at the same time formed a reserve.

The second position taken by the enemy on my right front was stronger than the first. It was in a creek bottom, covered with trees and underbrush, the approach to which was over open fields and ragged and exposed hill-slopes. Having advanced until they had gained a bald ridge overlooking the bottom, Generals Hovey's and Carr's divisions again encountered the enemy's fire. A hot engagement ensued, in the course of which, discovering that the enemy was massing a formidable force on my right front, with the evident design to force back and turn my right flank, I ordered General Smith to send forward a brigade to support that flank. Burbridge's brigade rapidly moved forward for that purpose; meanwhile General Hovey massed his artillery on the right, and opened a partially enfilading and destructive fire on the enemy. The effect of these combined movements was to force the enemy back upon his center with considerable loss.

Here, with a large concentration of forces, he renewed the attack, directing it against my right center. General Carr met and retaliated it both with infantry and artillery with great vigor. At the same time Landram's brigade, of General Smith's division, re-enforced by a detachment from General Hovey's division, forced its way through cane and underbrush and joined in Carr's attack. The battle was now transferred from the enemy's left to his center, and after an obstinate struggle he was again beaten back upon the high ridge on the opposite side of the bottom, and within a mile of Port Gibson. General Stevenson's brigade, of General Logan's division, came up in time to assist in consummating this final result.

The shades of night soon after closed upon the stricken field, which the valor of our men had won and held, and upon which they found the first repose since they had left D'Schron's Landing, twenty-four hours before.

At day-dawn on the morning of the 2d, Smith's division, leading the advance, and followed by the rest of my corps, triumphantly entered Port Gibson, through which place and across the South Branch of Bayou Pierre the enemy had hastily fled the night before, burning the bridge across that stream in his rear.

This, the battle of Port Gibson, on Bayou Pierre, was one of the most admirably and successfully fought battles in which it has been my lot to participate since the present unhappy war commenced. If not a decisive battle, it was determinate of the brilliant series of successes that followed. It continued twelve hours, and cost us 803 men killed and

wounded, of which the Ninth Division lost 37 killed and 176 wounded; the Tenth Division, 2 killed and 16 wounded; the Twelfth Division, 42 killed and 266 wounded, and the Fourteenth Division, 42 killed and 222 wounded, making the aggregate above named, including 8 reported missing.*

The loss of the enemy was 2 stand of colors, 2 pieces of cannon, 3 caissons, a quantity of ammunition, a number of small-arms and ammunition wagons, and 580 prisoners. His loss in killed and wounded is not known, but must have been considerable.

Remaining at Port Gibson, on May 2 my corps assisted in constructing a bridge across the South Branch of Bayou Pierre, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, engineer and aide-de camp on Major-General Grant's staff; reconnoitered the country east and north of that stream, and skirmished with a detachment left by the enemy on the north side of it to watch our movements.

On the night of the 2d, the fugitive enemy was met by re-enforcements reported to be on their way from Grand Gulf and Vicksburg, and communicating their fears to the latter, the whole fled across Big Black. The panic also extended to the garrison at Grand Gulf, only 7 miles from Port Gibson, who spiked their guns, and, hastily abandoning the place, also fled across the same river. Next day a naval force took possession of the place.

On the same day Brigadier-General Lawler, having reported to me for duty under your order, was assigned to the command of the Second Brigade, of General Carr's division.

MARCH FROM PORT GIBSON TO CHAMPION'S HILL.

On the 3d, agreeably to your instructions, my corps, save Lawler's brigade, which was left behind to garrison Port Gibson, marched on the Raymond road to Willow Springs; on the 6th to Rocky Springs; on the 8th to Little Sandy, and on the 9th to Big Sandy.

General Osterhaus led the advance from Little to Big Sandy, and on arriving at the latter creek immediately threw a detachment of infantry, preceded by the Second Illinois Cavalry, over it toward Hall's Ferry, on Big Black. Finding a detachment of the enemy in front of the ferry, a company of cavalry, under Lieutenant Stickel, dashed forward and dispersed it before it had time to form, killing 12 men and capturing 30 prisoners.

Resuming its march on the 11th, my corps moved to Five-Mile Creek, and on the 12th to Fourteen-Mile Creek.

During these thirteen days my command subsisted on six days' rations and what scanty supply the country in the immediate vicinity of the route afforded; were wholly without tents and regular trains, and almost without cooking utensils; yet they were cheerful and prompt in the discharge of duty.

General Hovey's division led the advance to Fourteen-Mile Creek, followed by General Carr and General Osterhaus. General Smith's division moved by the way of Hall's Ferry, on Big Black River, and, leaving a detachment there to guard that crossing, passed on to Montgomery's bridge, on Fourteen-Mile Creek, 3 miles below the point of General Hovey's approach. An outpost of the rebel force at Edwards Station, concealed in the thick woods and underbrush lining the creek, was first encountered by General Hovey's advance guard, consisting

* But see revised statement, p. 584.

of a detachment of the Second Illinois Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Bush, and soon after by his artillery and infantry, which were boldly advanced across the open fields to the creek. Overcoming the resistance of the enemy, and driving him from his cover, General Hovey pushed forward a portion of his command beyond the creek and secured the crossing.

My loss in this skirmish was 4 men wounded. The loss of the enemy is unknown, but must have been greater. On the same day, General Sherman seized the crossing of Turkey Creek, a few miles to my right, and General McPherson, after a sharp skirmish, seized Raymond, still farther to the right. The flight of the enemy from Raymond left the way open to Jackson, the capital of Mississippi, and Major-General Grant determined to march his army in that direction. This involved a change in the direction of its movements. Up to this time Edwards Station, to which I had been leading the advance, was the objective point. There it was known the enemy had concentrated a considerable force and intended to accept battle when offered. Jackson now became the objective point.

Hence, on the night of the 12th, I was ordered by Major-General Grant to move the following morning, on the north side of Fourteen-Mile Creek, to Raymond. At this time my corps rested within 4 miles of Edwards Station, with an outpost only 3 and a picket only 2 miles from that place. The outpost of the enemy had been driven back from the creek, and he was fully advised of the fact and of our proximity. The movement ordered was a delicate and hazardous one, but was calculated to deceive the enemy as to our design.

To insure it against casualties, as far as possible, I ordered General Hovey to advance his division early on the morning of the 13th a mile on the main road to Edwards Station, and to form it in line of battle across the road. The movement was happily executed, and had the effect to throw the enemy upon his defense against apprehended attack. Meanwhile Osterhaus' and Carr's divisions crossed the creek, and, filing by the flank to the rear, and under cover of Hovey's line, crossed Baker's Creek, a mile eastward, on the road to Raymond, and halted. Hovey's division followed in successive detachments, under cover of woods. The movement was discovered by the enemy too late to allow him to prevent or embarrass it. His attack upon the rear guard was hesitating and feeble, and was promptly and completely repulsed. All were now safe beyond Baker's Creek.

On the same morning General Smith's division, after destroying Montgomery's bridge, hastened back on the south side of the creek, in pursuance of Major-General Grant's order, to Old Auburn, to guard and bring forward to Raymond the army's trains. That night the same division rested at Old Auburn, while the remaining three divisions rested on the Raymond road, between Turkey Creek and Raymond.

The morning of the 14th found General Osterhaus' division in Raymond, which, in pursuance of Major-General Grant's direction, I ordered to garrison that place. On the same day, in pursuance of like direction, Generals Carr's and Hovey's divisions marched through Raymond in a heavy rain-storm; the former to Forest Hill Church, within 6 miles of General Sherman's position at Jackson, the latter to a creek within 4 miles of General McPherson's position at Clinton. This was the most fatiguing and exhausting day's march that had been made.

That night I received a dispatch from Major-General Grant, informing me that the enemy had retreated from Jackson, and was probably attempting to reach Vicksburg in advance of us, and ordering me im-

mediately to move my corps 8 miles north, to Bolton Station, to frustrate the design. Corresponding orders were immediately issued by me to commanders of divisions, and, by 9.30 o'clock on the 15th, General Osterhaus' division had seized Bolton Station, capturing several prisoners and driving the balance of the enemy's picket away.

General Hovey's division soon after came up from Clinton, and both divisions were disposed to meet any attack that might come from the enemy known to be in front. During the day an active reconnaissance was pushed by Colonel Mudd, chief of cavalry of my corps, up to the enemy's picket lines, and at some points beyond. General [Albert L.] Lee, who had reported for duty that morning, and who kindly volunteered his service as aide-de-camp until he could be assigned to a command, also displayed great enterprise and daring. Indeed, every effort was made by myself personally and by others to acquire familiar knowledge of the ground and roads for 7 miles west to Edwards Station. It was found three roads led from the Raymond and Bolton road to Edwards Station, one diverging 1½ miles north of Raymond, a second 3½ miles, and a third 7½ miles from Raymond, and 1 mile south of Bolton and the railroad. These roads may be designated as the northern, middle, and southern roads to Edwards Station, and united within some 2 miles of that point.

Night found Generals Hovey's, Osterhaus', and Carr's divisions, in the order stated, at the entrance to these several roads, prepared to receive a threatened attack, or to move forward upon converging lines against Edwards Station. General Smith's division came up during the night and bivouacked north of Raymond, near General Carr's. General Blair's division, of General Sherman's corps, bivouacked at Raymond. This disposition of my corps but anticipated events.

During the evening of the 15th, I received a dispatch from Major-General Grant, advising me that the entire force of the enemy at Vicksburg had probably crossed the Big Black and taken position at Edwards Station, and ordering me to feel the enemy without bringing on a general engagement, and to notify General Blair what to do.

BATTLE OF CHAMPION'S HILL.

It only remained to execute what has been already intimated; hence, on the night of the 15th, orders were issued to commanders of divisions to move forward on the following morning.

General Smith moved forward on the southern road at 5 a. m. on the 16th, followed and supported by General Blair; General Osterhaus on the middle road at 6 o'clock, followed and supported by General Carr; and General Hovey at the same hour on the northern road. The starting of different divisions at different hours was in consequence of the difference in the distances they had to march, and was designed to secure a parallel advance of the different columns. Each division was instructed to keep up communication with that or those next to it.

Believing that General Hovey's division also needed support, I sent a dispatch on the 15th to Major-General Grant, requesting that General McPherson's corps, then arrived in rear of General Hovey, should also move forward, and early on the morning of the 16th I rode over to General McPherson's headquarters and suggested the same thing, urging, among other things, that if his corps should not be needed as a support, it might, in the event I should beat the enemy, fall upon his flank and rear and cut him off. Assurances altogether satisfactory were given by the general, and I felt confident of our superiority on the right. I went forward with the center, formed by Osterhaus and Carr.

At 7.30 a. m., when my whole line had approached within some 5 miles of Edwards Station, General Smith's division, on my left, encountered the enemy's skirmishers, who retired. A half mile farther on they encountered the fire of the enemy's artillery, which was briskly replied to until it ceased.

At the moment these demonstrations commenced, there was strong reason to believe (corroborated by subsequent information) that the enemy was moving in large force on the Raymond road, with the hope of turning my left flank and gaining my rear; but the sudden appearance of my forces in that direction foiled the design and threw his right back in some confusion toward his center and left.

Hearing the report of artillery on the left, General Osterhaus pushed forward through a broad field to a thick wood, which covered a seeming chaos of abrupt hills and yawning ravines. From the skirt of this wood he drove a line of skirmishers, and, continuing his advance until he discovered the enemy in strong force, commenced feeling him.

Early notifying Major-Generals Grant and McPherson of what had transpired on the left, I requested the latter to co-operate with my forces on the right, and directed General Hovey to advance promptly but carefully.

At 9.45 a. m. I received a dispatch from General Hovey, informing me that he had found the enemy strongly posted in front; that General McPherson's corps was behind him; that his right flank would probably encounter severe resistance, and inquiring whether he should bring on the impending battle.

My whole command was now about 4 miles from Edwards Station, and immediately informing Major-General Grant, whom I understood to be on the field, of the position of affairs, I inquired whether General McPherson could not move forward to the support of General Hovey, and whether I should bring on a general engagement. A dispatch from the general, dated 12.35 p. m., came, directing me to throw forward skirmishers as soon as my forces were in hand; to feel and attack the enemy in force, if opportunity occurred, and informing me that he was with Hovey and McPherson, and would see that they fully co-operated.

Meanwhile a line of skirmishers had connected Generals Osterhaus' and Smith's divisions, closing up the narrow space between them. General Blair had moved a brigade farther to the right, to support the skirmishers and the proximate flanks of Osterhaus and Smith. General Ransom's brigade, of the Seventeenth Army Corps, had been ordered to hasten up from the neighborhood of Raymond, and skirmishing along my left and center, particularly the latter, was quite brisk.

These measures in part had been taken in compliance with Major-General Grant's orders, based on information, of which he had advised me, that the enemy was in greatest strength in front of my center and left, and might turn my left flank and gain my rear. This, doubtless, as already explained, had been the tendency of the enemy early in the morning, but had been counteracted by General Smith's operations. Later information was brought by an aide-de-camp of General Smith, and communicated by me to Major-General Grant, of the absence at that time of the danger he apprehended.

Instantly upon the receipt of Major-General Grant's order to attack, I hastened to do so, ordering Generals Smith and Osterhaus to "attack the enemy vigorously and press for victory," General Blair to support the former and General Carr the latter, holding Lawler's brigade in reserve.

At 10 a. m. General Hovey resumed his advance, and, approaching in plain view of the enemy, disposed his forces for battle along a skirt of wood and across the road of his approach. General McGinnis' brigade was formed on the right, and Colonel Slack's on the left. General Logan's division, of General McPherson's corps, was between the railroad and my right, and about half a mile from the latter.

A mile in front stood a hill some 60 or 70 feet high, covered with a thick wood. In this wood the enemy were drawn up in strong force, doubtless augmented by his tendency to his right, above noticed. This hill is indifferently called Midway or Champion's Hill, from the fact of its being half way between Jackson and Vicksburg, and the reputed property of a citizen by the name of Champion. The space between the hill and my right was composed of undulating fields, exposed to the enemy's fire, while the ground to its left and front was scarred by deep ravines and choked with underbrush, thus making a farther advance extremely difficult. Undaunted, the brave men of the Twelfth Division pressed on under a galling fire. By 11 a. m. the engagement became general all along the hostile lines, and continued to rage with increasing fury until after 12 m. Meantime the enemy had been driven back with great slaughter, quite 600 yards, leaving in our hands 300 prisoners and eleven pieces of cannon.

Rallying in his desperation, and bringing forward fresh troops, he poured down the road, and with superior numbers renewed the conflict. Not daring to cross the open fields in the direction of General McPherson, who had handled him roughly on the extreme right, his main force was directed against General Hovey. A crisis had come. Struggling heroically against the adverse tide, that officer called for the support of a division of General McPherson's corps, hard by, which had not yet been engaged, but did not get it until his line was being borne back. The support finally came, and was also borne back. Slowly and stubbornly our men fell back, contesting every inch of ground lost with death, until they had neared the brow of the hill. Here, under partial cover, they rallied and checked the advance of the enemy, but a bold and decisive blow was necessary to retrieve the day in this part of the field. This was happily struck by General Hovey. Massing his artillery, strengthened by Dillon's Wisconsin battery, upon elevated ground beyond a mound to his right, he opened an enfilading fire upon the enemy, which, challenging the cheers of our men, went crashing through the woods with deadly effect. The enemy gave way and the fortune of the day in this part of the field was retrieved. Generals Hovey's and Crocker's divisions pushed forward to the crest of the hill, while General Logan's division, falling upon the flank of the broken foe, captured many prisoners. Five of the enemy's guns that had been captured by General Hovey and had not been brought off again fell into our hands. The carnage strewing the field literally stamped Midway as the "Hill of Death." General Hovey had lost nearly one-third of his men, killed and wounded. It was now about 2.30 p. m.

As already mentioned, General Osterhaus' division early advanced to feel the enemy, General Garrard's brigade on the right and Colonel Lindsey's on the left. The sharp skirmish that followed upon the receipt of my order to attack was pressed until the centers of the opposing lines became hotly engaged. The battle was raging all along my center and right. In front of my center, as well as my right, the enemy appeared in great numbers. Garrard's brigade was hard pressed, and General Osterhaus requested that it should be supported. Support was afforded by Benton's brigade, of Carr's division, which promptly moved

forward, in obedience to my order, and joined with the former in the conflict. All of Lawler's brigade, of the same division, except a reserve of one regiment, also advanced to support Lindsey, who had pushed a charge near the mouth of a battery. Lawler's brigade here cast the trembling balance in our favor. Himself narrowly escaping the effect of a shell, his men joined Lindsey's, and both dashed forward, shooting down the enemy's battery horses, driving away his gunners, and capturing two pieces of cannon. This success on the left center, forcing a portion of the enemy to the right, caused the resistance to my right center to be increased and continued until the flight of the enemy on my extreme right had communicated its effect to his center. The enemy, thus beaten at all points, fled in confusion, the main body along the road leading to Vicksburg, a fragment to the left of that road. General Carr's division, taking the advance, hotly pursued the former, and Lindsey's and Burbridge's brigades the latter, until night closed in, each taking many prisoners. The rebel General Tilghman was killed by a shot from one of General Burbridge's batteries.

At 8 p. m. General Carr arrived at Edwards, where the flames were consuming a train of cars and a quantity of stores which the enemy had fired. Both, to a considerable extent, were saved by the activity and daring of his men. During the same night General Carr's division was joined by General Osterhaus'. Generals Blair's and Smith's divisions rested some 3 miles southeast of Edwards Station, and General Hovey's division at Midway, under orders to care for the wounded and bury the dead.

The loss sustained by my corps attests the severity of this memorable battle, which is as follows:

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
General Hovey's division	211	872	119
General Osterhaus' division*	14	76	20
General Smith's division	------	24	4
General Carr's division	1	------	2

Aggregate, 1,334.

Of General Blair's loss I am not advised, not having received a report from him.

Besides the captures already mentioned, a large number of small-arms were taken. The field was strewn with the dead and wounded of the enemy, and his loss must have been very great.

BATTLE OF BLACK RIVER BRIDGE.

At 3.30 on the morning of the 17th, my corps again resumed the advance, General Carr's division leading, and General Osterhaus' closely following, on the road to Black River Bridge, 6 miles distant. On the way, General Carr's division captured a number of prisoners, which were sent to the rear, and, upon nearing a skirt of wood masking the enemy's position, encountered and drove back his picket.

Passing to the farther edge of the wood, the enemy was discovered in full force, strongly intrenched in elaborate defenses, consisting of a

* But see revised statement, p. 582.

series of works for artillery and two lines of breastworks—the inner one about half a mile in length, the outer about 1 mile—both resting their extremities upon Big Black, and forming the segment of a rude circle. Outside of the latter was a deep, miry slough, the approach to which, from the line of my advance, was across a field connecting with others that widened on the right and left.

General Carr's division, having entered the wood mentioned, was immediately formed in obedience to my order; General Lawler's brigade on the right, resting its flanks near Big Black, and General Benton's brigade on its left and to the right of the railroad. A section of Foster's battery and two regiments of General Osterhaus' division were ordered to the right and rear of Lawler, to support him and counteract any approach through the forest to the opposite bank of the river. Osterhaus' division was ordered to form to the left of the road; Lindsey's brigade in front, and the remaining two regiments of Garrard's brigade obliquely on the left and rear of Lindsey's, to counteract any movement in that direction.

Two sections of Foster's battery were brought forward, and while being posted in the center of the two divisions, under the personal direction of General Osterhaus, was opened on by the enemy's artillery. General Osterhaus and Captain Foster were both wounded, 1 man killed, and a limber-box exploded by a shell. The command of the division, by my order, was immediately devolved upon General Lee.

A brisk action had continued for a half hour or more, when General Smith's division came up and was ordered by me to extend and support my left, in which direction it was reported that the enemy were moving in large numbers. After this disposition had been made, my right center and left engaged the enemy with increased effect, and General Lawler, aided by this diversion, and availing himself of information obtained by Colonel [J. J.] Mudd, chief of cavalry, of the practicability of making a near approach, under partial cover, on the extreme right, dashed forward under a heavy fire across a narrow field, and with fixed bayonets carried the enemy's works, capturing many prisoners and routing him.

The feat was eminently brilliant, and reflects the highest credit upon the gallant officers and men of Generals Lawler's and Osterhaus' commands who achieved it. It was determinate of the success of the day. Fleeing toward a steamer forming a bridge across the Big Black near the railroad bridge, most of the enemy escaped to the commanding bluff on the opposite side, while others, hotly pressed by Benton's and the right of Lindsey's brigade, were cut off from that escape, and driven to the left and down the river upon the left of Lindsey's and the front of Burbridge's brigades, and fell into their hands.

A victory could hardly have been more complete. The enemy burned the bridge over which he had passed, two other steamers, and the railroad bridge. About 1,500 prisoners and —— stand of arms fell into our hands, eighteen pieces of cannon, and a considerable quantity of ammunition and cotton. A number of the enemy were found dead upon the field, but nothing more is certainly known of his loss in killed and wounded.

The loss on our part was limited to my own forces, which alone were engaged. The Ninth Division lost 10 killed, 19 wounded, and 1 missing; the Fourteenth Division 19 killed, 223 wounded, and 1 missing; making in all 273.* Among the killed is Colonel Kinsman, Twenty-third Iowa,

* But see revised statement, Part II, p. 128.

who fell, mortally wounded, while leading his regiment in the charge upon the enemy's works.

Driven across the river, the enemy made a feeble stand to cover his trains and retreat upon Vicksburg, but several hours before sunset was dislodged by my forces, leaving tents, a considerable quantity of clothing and other stores, together with a large number of small-arms, a smoking ruin.

During the following night and morning a bridge was thrown across the Big Black by the pioneer corps under Captain Patterson.

On the morning of the 18th, I crossed with Generals Osterhaus', Smith's, and Carr's divisions, of my corps, and took up the line of march for Vicksburg, 12 miles distant. General Smith's division led, followed by Generals Osterhaus and Carr, on the Jackson and Vicksburg road to Saint Albans, and thence by a cross-road and the Baldwin's Ferry road at Four-Mile Creek, arriving there about sunset, and resting for the night 4 miles from Vicksburg. Several prisoners and wagons were captured during the march. General Osterhaus resumed command of the Ninth Division on the west bank of Big Black, and General Lee was assigned to the command of the First Brigade of that division during the absence of General Garrard, who had been ordered to report to General Prentiss, at Helena.

Early on the morning of the 19th, accompanied by my staff, I made a personal reconnaissance to the brow of a long hill overlooking a creek 2 miles from Vicksburg. This hill runs north and south, and conforms very much to the line of Vicksburg's defenses, in plain view on a similar range a mile west. The creek is called Two-Mile Creek because it is only 2 miles from Vicksburg. Colonel Mudd came very near being shot by one of the enemy's pickets during the reconnaissance.

The intervening space between these two ranges consisted of a series of deep hollows separated by narrow ridges, both rising near the enemy's works, and running at angles from them until they are terminated by the narrow valley of Two-Mile Creek. The heads of the hollows were entirely open. Nearer their termination they were covered with a thicket of trees and underbrush. At this time the picket and skirmishers of the enemy were in this thicket, watchful to discover and obstruct our advance.

The enemy's defenses consist of an extended line of rifle-pits occupied by infantry, covered by a multitude of strong works occupied by artillery, so arranged as to command not only the approaches by the ravines and ridges in front, but each other.

THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

Since 4 a. m. my command had been under orders to be in readiness to move forward and commence the investment of the city. By 6.30 a. m. it came up, and in obedience to my orders formed behind the crest of the hill upon which I had been waiting, General Smith's division on the right of the Vicksburg road; General Osterhaus' on the left, and General Carr's along the base of the hill, as a reserve. Skirmishers were thrown forward, who engaged the enemy's skirmishers, and artillery was opened from the most commanding positions upon the enemy's works, and a body of infantry observed between them and Burbridge's brigade, on my right. In a short time the enemy's skirmishers fell back, and my line advanced across Two-Mile Creek to the hills on the opposite side.

About this time (10.30 a. m.) an order came from Major-General

Grant directing corps commanders to gain as close a position as possible to the enemy's works until 2 p. m.; at that hour fire three volleys from all their pieces in position, when a general charge of all the corps along the line should be made.

By 2 o'clock, with great difficulty, my line had gained a half mile, and was within 800 yards of the enemy's works. The ground in front was unexplored and commanded by the enemy's works, yet, at the appointed signal, my infantry went forward under such cover as my artillery could afford, and bravely continued a wasting conflict until they had approached within 500 yards of the enemy's lines, and exhaustion and the lateness of the evening interrupted it. An advance had been made by all the corps, and the ground gained firmly held, but the enemy's works were not carried.

A number of brave officers and men fell, killed or wounded, and among the latter General Lee, who had signalized his brief command with equal activity, intelligence, and gallantry. The command of his brigade devolved on Colonel Keigwin, an able and worthy successor.

On the 20th, General Hovey brought up Colonel Slack's brigade, of his division, from Champion's Hill, and supported General Osterhaus on the left. General Carr supported General Smith on the right. Lively skirmishing continued during the 20th and 21st, and farther approach to the enemy's works was made where it could be done.

On the evening of the 21st, I received an order of the same date from Major-General Grant, in material part as follows:

> A simultaneous attack will be made to-morrow at 10 a. m. by all the army corps of this army. During to-day army corps commanders will have examined all practicable routes over which troops can possibly pass. They will get into position all the artillery possible, and gain all the ground they can with their infantry and skirmishers. At an early hour in the morning a vigorous attack will be commenced by artillery and skirmishers. The infantry, with the exception of reserves and skirmishers, will be placed in columns of platoons, or by a flank, if the ground over which they have to pass will not admit of a greater front, ready to move forward at the hour designated. Promptly at the hour designated all will start at quick time, with bayonets fixed, and march immediately upon the enemy, without firing a gun until the outer works are carried. Skirmishers will advance as soon as possible after heads of columns pass them, and scale the walls of such works as may confront them.

General Carr's division relieved General Smith's on the same day, and now formed the advance on the right, supported by the latter. On the left, dispositions continued as before. Communicating Major-General Grant's order to division commanders during the same evening, as far as practicable, everything was done calculated to insure success.

On the morning of the 22d, I opened with artillery, including three 30, six 20, and six 10 pounder Parrotts (in all, thirty-nine guns), and continued a well-directed and effective fire until 10 o'clock, breaching the enemy's works at several points, temporarily silencing his guns and exploding four rebel caissons.

Five minutes before 10 o'clock the bugle sounded the charge, and at 10 o'clock my columns of attack moved forward, and within fifteen minutes Lawler's and Landram's brigades had carried the ditch, slope, and bastion of a fort. Some of their men, emulous of each other, rushed into the fort, finding a piece of artillery, and in time to see the men who had been serving and supporting it escape behind another defense commanding the interior of the former. All of this daring and heroic party were shot down, except one, who, recovering from the stunning effect of a shot, seized his musket and captured and brought away 13 rebels, who had returned and fired their guns. The captor was Sergt. Joseph E. Griffith, of the Twenty-second Iowa, who, I am happy to say,

has since been promoted. The colors of the One hundred and thirtieth Illinois were planted upon the counter-scarp of the ditch, while those of the Forty-eighth Ohio and Seventy-seventh Illinois waved over the bastion.

Within fifteen minutes after Lawler's and Landram's success, Benton's and Burbridge's brigades, fired by the example, rushed forward and carried the ditch and slope of another heavy earthwork, and planted their colors upon the latter. Crowning this brilliant feat with a parallel to Sergeant Griffith's daring, Captain White, of the Chicago Mercantile Battery, carried forward one of his pieces by hand quite to the ditch, and, double-shotting it, fired into an embrasure, disabling a gun in it ready to be discharged, and scattering death among the rebel cannoneers. A curtain connected the works forming these two points of attack.

My men never fought more gallantly—nay, desperately. For more than eight long hours they maintained their ground with death-like tenacity. Neither a blazing sun nor the deadly fire of the enemy shook them. Their constancy and valor filled me with admiration. The spectacle is one never to be forgotten.

A portion of the First U. S. Infantry, under Major Maloney, serving as heavy artillery, added to their previous renown. Neither officers nor men could have been more zealous and active. Being in the center, they covered in considerable part the advance of Benton's and Lawler's brigades and materially promoted their partial success.

Meantime Osterhaus' and Hovey's forces, forming the column of assault on the left, pushed forward under a withering fire upon a more extended line until an enfilading fire from a strong redoubt on their left front and physical exhaustion compelled them to take shelter behind a ridge. Here they could distinctly hear the words of hostile command. Their skirmishers, however, kept up the conflict. Alarmed for his safety, and the assault of the corps immediately on my left having failed, the enemy early hastened to mass large numbers from his right and left in my front. Thus re-enforced, he renewed his efforts with increased effect. All my forces were now engaged, including reserves. Failure and loss of my hard-won advantages became imminent. Advising General McArthur, who was on his way from Warrenton, of the state of affairs, I requested re-enforcements and notified Major-General Grant of the fact.

At 11 a. m. I informed him that I was hotly engaged; that the enemy was massing upon me from his right and left, and that a vigorous blow by General McPherson would make a diversion in my favor. Again, at 12 m., that I was in partial possession of two forts, and suggested whether a vigorous push ought not to be made all along our lines. Responding to these dispatches, Major-General Grant directed me to communicate with General McArthur, to use his forces to the best advantage, and informed me that General Sherman was getting on well. This dispatch was dated at 2 p. m. and came to hand at 3.15 p. m. About the same time I received information that General Quinby's division was coming to my support. Hastening to acknowledge the receipt of this welcome intelligence, I replied that I had lost no ground; that prisoners informed me that the works in which I had made lodgments were commanded by strong defenses in the rear, but that with the divisions promised I doubted not that I would force my way through the hostile lines, and, with many others, I doubt it not yet; but obstacles intervened to disappoint. General McArthur's division, being several miles distant, did not get up until next day. Colonel Boomer's and San-

born's brigades, of General Quinby's division, much exhausted, came up, but before either of them could be fully applied—indeed, before one of them was entirely formed—night set in and terminated the struggle. Colonel Boomer fell early while leading his men forward, lamented by all. Meanwhile the enemy, seeing Quinby's division moving in the direction of my position, hastened to concentrate additional forces in front of it, and made a sortie, which was repelled.

About 8 p. m., after ten hours' continuous fighting, without food or water, my men withdrew to the nearest shelter and rested for the night, holding by a strong picket most of the ground they had gained.

My loss during this memorable day comprised fully three-fourths of my whole loss before Vicksburg, and was as follows:

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
General Osterhaus' division	35	233	1
General Smith's division	49	400	30
General Hovey's division	*42	.....	.....
General Carr's division	109	559	57

Aggregate, 1,487.

To say that the Thirteenth Army Corps has done its whole duty manfully and nobly throughout this arduous and eventful campaign is only to say what historical facts abundantly establish. They opened and led the way to the field of Port Gibson, and had successfully fought that battle for several hours before re-enforcements came. They led the way to Champion's Hill, and bore the brunt of that battle. Unassisted, they fought and won the battle of Big Black. They made the first, if not the only, lodgment in the enemy's works at Vicksburg, retaining their advantages longest, withdrawing last, and probably sustaining the greatest loss.

That their officers are subject to no just reproach is equally true. On the contrary, that my officers generally have borne themselves faithfully and gallantly is attested by conspicuous and incontrovertible facts. Their success is a conclusive testimonial of their merit.

While referring to the reports of division, brigade, and regimental commanders for particular notice of the officers of their commands most distinguishing themselves, it is proper, as the commander of the corps, that I should recommend Brigadier-Generals Hovey, Carr, and Osterhaus for promotion; also Colonels Slack, Stone, Keigwin, Landram, Lindsey, and Mudd. The skill, valor, and signal services of these officers entitle them to it.

Not having received the reports of Generals Blair, Smith, and Quinby, I have been unable to furnish a more particular account of the operations of their commands.

To the members of my staff I am largely indebted for zealous and valuable assistance. Colonel [Thomas S.] Mather, chief of staff and acting ordnance officer; Colonel Mudd, chief of cavalry; Lieutenant-Colonel [Don A.] Pardee, acting inspector-general; Lieutenant-Colonel [Henry C.] Warmoth, aide-de-camp; Lieutenant-Colonel [Walter B.] Scates, assistant adjutant-general, and Major Butler, provost-marshal, all have been active, zealous, and eminently useful in their respective

* Killed and wounded.

spheres of duty. Lieutenant-Colonel Warmoth, while by my side during the assault of the 22d ultimo, was severely wounded.

Lieutenants Hains, chief engineer of the corps, [William R.] McComas, [Henry] Jayne, and Mason, have commended themselves by ability, activity, and usefulness.

Lieutenant-Colonel [Grantham I.] Taggart, chief commissary, and Lieutenant-Colonel [James] Dunlap and Captain [Michael C.] Garber, quartermasters, have administered their affairs with an energy and success commanding my hearty approbation.

Major Forbes, medical director, has done everything that could be expected of an officer of rare talent, skill, and varied experience in his department.

Sympathizing with the general commanding the noble army of the Tennessee in the loss of so many brave men killed and wounded, I cannot but congratulate him, in my thankfulness to Providence, upon the many and signal successes which have crowned his arms.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS.
Assistant Adjutant-General.]

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 19, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded. This report contains so many inaccuracies that to correct it, to make it a fair report to be handed down as historical, would require the rewriting of most of it. It is pretentious and egotistical, as is sufficiently shown by my own and all other reports accompanying.

The officers and men composing the Thirteenth Army Corps, throughout the campaign ending with the capture of Vicksburg, have done nobly, and there are no honors due the Army of the Tennessee in which they do not share equally.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Camp near Vicksburg, Miss., May 30, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit herewith a tabular statement of the number of killed, wounded, and missing of the several divisions of the Thirteenth Army Corps, except the Ninth, in the several battles and skirmishes since I crossed the Mississippi River into the State of Mississippi. I can only give a partial report at the present time. I will add a summary of the casualties of the Ninth Division as soon as received. In the more extended or full reports, which will be ready soon, slight corrections, doubtless, of this statement will be found. The press of public duties must be my apology for this delay.

Your most obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure.]

Abstract of killed and wounded in the Thirteenth Army Corps since it crossed the Mississippi River, April 30, 1863.

Command.	Name of battle-field.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
Ninth Division	Port Gibson	37	157	.....	194
Tenth Division	....do	3	14	2	19
Twelfth Division	....do	.....	.....	.....	308
Fourteenth Division	....do	42	222	.....	264
Ninth Division	Champion's Hill	6	60	.....	66
Tenth Division	....do	.....	24	.....	24
Twelfth Division	....do	.....	.....	.....	1,202
Fourteenth Division	....do	1	2	.....	3
Ninth Division	Black River Bridge	2	19	.....	21
Tenth Division	....do	.....	1	.....	1
Twelfth Division	....do	.....	.....	.....	.....
Fourteenth Division	....do	19	223	1	243
Ninth Division	Vicksburg	.....	.....	.....	.....
Tenth Division	....do	69	400	30	499
Twelfth Division	....do	.....	.....	....	50
Fourteenth Division	....do	109	559	57	725
Tenth Division	Baldwin's Ferry	.....	.....	4	4
Twelfth Division	Fourteen-Mile Creek	.....	.....	4	4
Total		288	1,681	98	3,627

The aggregate only of killed and wounded in the Twelfth Division is given. The casualties of the Ninth Division is from the medical director, and is only approximate.

Very respectfully,

WALTER B. SCATES,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General, Thirteenth Army Corps.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

—

CAIRO, ILL., *June* 23, 1863.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States:

I have been relieved for an omission of my adjutant.* Hear me.

JOHN A. MCCLERNAND.

—

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In Camp near Vicksburg, Miss., June 26, 1863.

Brig. Gen. LORENZO THOMAS,
Adjutant-General of the Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: Inclosed I respectfully transmit the letters of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps, and Maj. Gen. J. B. McPherson, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, of date, respectively, the 17th and 18th instant, relative to the congratulatory order of Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand to his troops, a copy of which order is also herewith transmitted, together with copies of the correspondence relating thereto, and my order relieving General McClernand from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps and assigning Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord to the command thereof, subject to the approval of the President.

A disposition and earnest desire on my part to do the most I could

* See Inclosure No. 6, p. 164.

with the means at my command, without interference with the assignments to command which the President alone was authorized to make, made me tolerate General McClernand long after I thought the good of the service demanded his removal. It was only when almost the entire army under my command seemed to demand it that he was relieved.

The inclosed letters show the feelings of the army corps serving in the field with the Thirteenth Corps. The removal of General McClernand from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps has given general satisfaction, the Thirteenth Army Corps sharing, perhaps, equally in that feeling with the other corps of the army. My action in the relieving of Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps and the assignment of Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord to that command I trust will meet the approval of the President.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., June 17, 1863.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: Inclosed I send you what purports to be your congratulatory address to the Thirteenth Army Corps. I would respectfully ask if it is a true copy. If it is not a correct copy, furnish me one by bearer, as required both by regulations and existing orders of the Department.

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

[Sub-Inclosure.]

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
No. 72. } *Battle-field, in rear of Vicksburg, May* 30, 1863.

COMRADES: As your commander, I am proud to congratulate you upon your constancy, valor, and successes. History affords no more brilliant example of soldierly qualities. Your victories have followed in such rapid succession that their echoes have not yet reached the country. They will challenge its grateful and enthusiastic applause. Yourselves striking out a new path, your comrades of the Army of the Tennessee followed, and a way was thus opened for them to redeem previous disappointments. Your march through Louisiana, from Milliken's Bend to New Carthage and Perkins' plantation, on the Mississippi River, is one of the most remarkable on record. Bayous and miry roads, threatened with momentary inundation, obstructed your progress. All these were overcome by unceasing labor and unflagging energy. The 2,000 feet of bridging which was hastily improvised out of materials created on the spot, and over which you passed, must long be remembered as a marvel. Descending the Mississippi still lower, you were the first to cross the river at Bruin's Landing and to plant our colors in the State of Mississippi below Warrenton. Resuming the advance the same day, you pushed on until you came up to the enemy near Port Gibson. Only restrained by the darkness of night, you hastened to attack him on the

* See also McClernand to Halleck, June 27, p. 165.

morning of May 1, and by vigorously pressing him at all points drove him from his position, taking a large number of prisoners and small-arms and five pieces of cannon. General Logan's division came up in time to gallantly share in consummating the most valuable victory won since the capture of Fort Donelson.

Taking the lead on the morning of the 2d, you were the first to enter Port Gibson and to hasten the retreat of the enemy from the vicinity of that place. During the ensuing night, as a consequence of the victory at Port Gibson, the enemy spiked his guns at Grand Gulf and evacuated that place, retiring upon Vicksburg and Edwards Station. The fall of Grand Gulf was solely the result of the victory achieved by the land forces at Port Gibson. The armament and public stores captured there are but the just trophies of that victory. Hastening to bridge the South Branch of the Bayou Pierre, at Port Gibson, you crossed on the morning of the 3d, and pushed on to Willow Springs, Big Sandy, and the main crossing of Fourteen-Mile Creek, 4 miles from Edwards Station. A detachment of the enemy was immediately driven away from the crossing, and you advanced, passed over, and rested during the night of the 12th within 3 miles of the enemy, in large force at the station.

On the morning of the 13th, the objective point of the army's movements having been changed from Edwards Station to Jackson, in pursuance of an order from the commander of the department, you moved on the north side of Fourteen-Mile Creek toward Raymond. This delicate and hazardous movement was executed by a portion of your number under cover of Hovey's division, which made a feint of attack in line of battle upon Edwards Station. Too late to harm you, the enemy attacked the rear of that division, but was promptly and decisively repulsed.

Resting near Raymond that night, on the morning of the 14th you entered that place, one division moving on to Mississippi Springs, near Jackson, in support of General Sherman; another to Clinton, in support of General McPherson; a third remaining at Raymond, and a fourth at Old Auburn, to bring up the army trains.

On the 15th, you again led the advance toward Edwards Station, which once more became the objective point. Expelling the enemy's pickets from Bolton the same day, you secured and held that important position.

On the 16th, you led the advance, in three columns upon three roads, against Edwards Station. Meeting the enemy on the way in strong force, you heavily engaged him near Champion's Hill, and after a sanguinary and obstinate battle, with the assistance of General McPherson's corps, beat and routed him, taking many prisoners and small-arms and several pieces of cannon. Continuing to lead the advance, you rapidly pursued the enemy to Edwards Station, capturing that place, a large quantity of public stores, and many prisoners. Night only stopped you.

At day-dawn on the 17th, you resumed the advance, and early coming upon the enemy strongly intrenched in elaborate works, both before and behind Big Black River, immediately opened with artillery upon him, followed by a daring and heroic charge at the point of the bayonet, which put him to rout, leaving eighteen pieces of cannon and more than 1,000 prisoners in your hands.

By an early hour on the 18th, you had constructed a bridge across the Big Black, and had commenced the advance upon Vicksburg.

On the 19th, 20th, and 21st you continued to reconnoiter and skirmish until you had gained a near approach to the enemy's works.

On the 22d, in pursuance of the order from the commander of the department, you assaulted the enemy's defenses in front at 10 a. m., and within thirty minutes had made a lodgment and planted your colors upon two of his bastions. This partial success called into exercise the highest heroism, and was only gained by a bloody and protracted struggle; yet it was gained, and was the first and largest success achieved anywhere along the whole line of our army. For nearly eight hours, under a scorching sun and destructive fire, you firmly held your footing, and only withdrew when the enemy had largely massed their forces and concentrated their attack upon you. How and why the general assault failed, it would be useless now to explain. The Thirteenth Army Corps, acknowledging the good intentions of all, would scorn indulgence in weak regrets and idle criminations. According justice to all, it would only defend itself. If, while the enemy was massing to crush it, assistance was asked for by a diversion at other points, or by re-enforcement, it only asked what in one case Major-General Grant had specifically and peremptorily ordered, namely, simultaneous and persistent attack all along our lines until the enemy's outer works should be carried, and what, in the other, by massing a strong force in time upon a weakened point, would have probably insured success.

Comrades, you have done much, yet something more remains to be done. The enemy's odious defenses still block your access to Vicksburg. Treason still rules that rebellious city, and closes the Mississippi River against rightful use by the millions who inhabit its sources and the great Northwest. Shall not our flag float over Vicksburg? Shall not the great Father of Waters be opened to lawful commerce? Methinks the emphatic response of one and all of you is, "It shall be so." Then let us rise to the level of a crowning trial. Let our common sufferings and glories, while uniting as a band of brothers, rouse us to new and surpassing efforts. Let us resolve upon success, God helping us.

I join with you, comrades, in your sympathy for the wounded and sorrow for the dead. May we not trust, nay, is it not so, that history will associate the martyrs of this sacred struggle for law and order, liberty and justice, with the honored martyrs of Monmouth and Bunker Hill?

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., June 13, 1863.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Major-General Grant's dispatch to General McClernand in relation to his address to the officers and soldiers of the Thirteenth Army Corps. The major-general commanding was absent at the time of its receipt, and has not yet returned.

I hasten to comply with the order of General Grant by inclosing a correct copy of the address.

Your most obedient servant,

WALTER B. SCATES,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HDQRS. THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS, *June* 13, 1863.

Major-General GRANT:

I have just returned. The newspaper slip is a correct copy of my congratulatory order, No. 72. I am prepared to maintain its statements. I regret that my adjutant did not send you a copy promptly, as he ought, and I thought he had.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 4.]

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Camp on Walnut Hills, June 17, 1863.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee:

SIR: On my return last evening from an inspection of the new works at Snyder's Bluff, General Blair, who commands the Second Division of my corps, called my attention to the inclosed publication in the Memphis Evening Bulletin of June 13, instant, entitled "Congratulatory Order of General McClernand," with a request that I should notice it, lest the statements of fact and inference contained therein might receive credence from an excited public. It certainly gives me no pleasure or satisfaction to notice such a catalogue of nonsense—such an effusion of vain-glory and hypocrisy; nor can I believe General McClernand ever published such an order officially to his corps. I know too well that the brave and intelligent soldiers and officers who compose that corps will not be humbugged by such stuff.

If the order be a genuine production and not a forgery, it is manifestly addressed not to an army, but to a constituency in Illinois, far distant from the scene of the events attempted to be described, who might innocently be induced to think General McClernand the sagacious leader and bold hero he so complacently paints himself; but it is barely possible the order is a genuine one, and was actually read to the regiments of the Thirteenth Army Corps, in which case a copy must have been sent to your office for the information of the commanding general.

I beg to call his attention to the requirements of General Orders, No. 151, of 1862, which actually forbids the publication of all official letters and reports, and requires the name of the writer to be laid before the President of the United States for dismissal. The document under question is not technically a letter or report, and though styled an order, is not an order. It orders nothing, but is in the nature of an address to soldiers, manifestly designed for publication for ulterior political purposes. It perverts the truth to the ends of flattery and self-glorification, and contains many untruths, among which is one of monstrous falsehood. It substantially accuses General McPherson and myself with disobeying the orders of General Grant in not assaulting on May 19 and 22, and allowing on the latter day the enemy to mass his forces against the Thirteenth Army Corps alone. General McPherson is fully able to answer for himself, and for the Fifteenth Army Corps I answer that on May 19 and 22 it attacked furiously, at three distinct points, the enemy's works, at the very hour and minute fixed in General Grant's written orders; that on both days we planted our colors on the exterior slope and kept them there till nightfall; that from the first hour of investment of Vicksburg until now my corps has at all times been far in

advance of General McClernand's; that the general-in-chief, by personal inspection, knows this truth; that tens of thousands of living witnesses beheld and participated in the attack; that General Grant visited me during both assaults and saw for himself, and is far better qualified to judge whether his orders were obeyed than General McClernand, who was nearly 3 miles off; that General McClernand never saw my lines; that he then knew, and still knows, nothing about them, and that from his position he had no means of knowing what occurred on this front. Not only were the assaults made at the time and place and in the manner prescribed in General Grant's written orders, but about 3 p. m., five hours after the assault on the 22d began, when my storming party lay against the exterior slope of the bastion on my front, and Blair's whole division was deployed close up to the parapet, ready to spring to the assault, and all my field artillery were in good position for the work, General Grant showed me a note from General McClernand, that moment handed him by an orderly, to the effect that he had carried three of the enemy's forts, and that the flag of the Union waved over the stronghold of Vicksburg, asking that the enemy should be pressed at all points lest he should concentrate on him. Not dreaming that a major-general would at such a critical moment make a mere buncombe communication, I instantly ordered Giles A. Smith's and Mower's brigades to renew the assault under cover of Blair's division and the artillery, deployed as before described, and sent an aide to General Steele, about a mile to my right, to convey the same mischievous message, whereby we lost, needlessly, many of our best officers and men.

I would never have revealed so unwelcome a truth had General McClernand, in his process of self-flattery, confined himself to facts in the reach of his own observation, and not gone out of the way to charge others for results which he seems not to comprehend. In cases of repulse and failure, congratulatory addresses by subordinate commanders are not common, and are only resorted to by weak and vain men to shift the burden of responsibility from their own to the shoulders of others. I never make a practice of speaking or writing of others, but during our assault of the 19th several of my brigade commanders were under the impression that McClernand's corps did not even attempt an assault.

In the congratulatory order I remark great silence on the subject. Merely to satisfy inquiring parties, I should like to know if McClernand's corps did or did not assault at 2 p. m. of May 19, as ordered. I do not believe it did, and I think General McClernand responsible.

With these remarks I leave the matter where it properly belongs, in the hands of the commanding general, who knows his plans and orders, sees with an eye single to success and his country's honor, and not from the narrow and contracted circle of a subordinate commander, who exaggerates the importance of the events that fall under his immediate notice, and is filled with an itching desire for "fame not earned."

With great respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HDQRS. 17TH ARMY CORPS, DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss, June 18, 1863.

Major-General GRANT, *Comdg. Dept. of the Tennessee:*

GENERAL: My attention has just been called to an order published in the Missouri Democrat of the 10th instant, purporting to be a congratulatory order from Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand to his command

The whole tenor of the order is so ungenerous, and the insinuations and criminations against the other corps of your army are so manifestly at variance with the facts, that a sense of duty to my command, as well as the verbal protest of every one of my division and brigade commanders against allowing such an order to go forth to the public unanswered, require that I should call your attention to it. After a careful perusal of the order, I cannot help arriving at the conclusion that it was written more to influence public sentiment at the North and impress the public mind with the magnificent strategy, superior tactics, and brilliant deeds of the major-general commanding the Thirteenth Army Corps than to congratulate his troops upon their well-merited successes. There is a vain-gloriousness about the order, an ingenious attempt to write himself down the hero, the master-mind, giving life and direction to military operations in this quarter, inconsistent with the high-toned principles of the soldier, *sans peur et sans reproche.* Though born a warrior, as he himself stated, he has evidently forgotten one of the most essential qualities, viz, that elevated, refined sense of honor, which, while guarding his own rights with zealous care, at all times renders justice to others.

It little becomes Major-General McClernand to complain of want of co-operation on the part of other corps in the assault on the enemy's works on the 22d ultimo, when 1,218 men of my command were placed *hors de combat* in their resolute and daring attempt to carry the positions assigned to them, and fully one-third of these from General Quinby's division, with the gallant and accomplished Colonel [George B.] Boomer at their head, who fell in front of his own lines, where they were left (after being sent 2 miles to support him) to sustain the whole brunt of the battle from 5 p. m. until after dark, his own men being recalled. If General McClernand's assaulting columns were not immediately supported when they moved against the enemy's intrenchments, and few of the men succeeded in getting in, it most assuredly was his own fault and not the fault of any other corps commander. Each corps commander had the positions assigned to him which he was to attempt to carry, and it remained with him to dispose his troops in such a way as to support promptly and efficiently any column which succeeded in getting in. The attack was ordered by the major-general commanding the department to be simultaneous at all the points selected, and precisely at the hour the columns moved, some of them taking a little longer than others to reach the enemy's works, on account of the natural and artificial obstacles to be overcome, but the difference in time was not great enough to allow of any changing or massing of the enemy from one part of the line to the other.

The assault failed, not, in my opinion, from any want of co-operation or bravery on the part of our troops, but from the strength of the works, the difficulty of getting close up to them under cover, and the determined character of the assailed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 6.]

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 164. } HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., June 18, 1863.

* * * * * * *

IV. Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand is hereby relieved from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps. He will proceed to any point he

may select in the State of Illinois, and report by letter to Headquarters of the Army for orders.* Maj. Gen. E. O. C. Ord is hereby appointed to the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps, subject to the approval of the President, and will immediately assume charge of the same.

By order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant:

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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ADDENDA.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *June* 27, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

GENERAL: On the 4th instant I personally delivered the original of the accompanying paper, marked A, to Major-General Grant, upon the perusal of which he remarked in substance that he had underrated the obstacles frustrating the assault upon Vicksburg's defenses, and that he would answer my note in writing, and, as I understood him, satisfactorily. It has not yet been answered.

The original of the accompanying paper, marked B,† was received by me on the evening of the 18th instant. The paper marked C‡ is a copy of my answer, and paper marked D is a copy of General Grant's reply.§ Paper marked E is a copy of my protest.

In compliance with General Grant's order, I have the honor to report to Headquarters of the Army by letter for orders.

Having opened the way from Milliken's Bend above to Perkins' plantation, 40 miles below, Vicksburg; having led the advanced corps to Port Gibson and to Champion's Hill, and borne the brunt of both of these battles, as statistics will prove; having fought the battle of Big Black unassisted by any other corps; having made the first and perhaps only lodgments in the enemy's works at Vicksburg on the 22d ultimo, and demonstrated the vigor and persistency of my assault by the greatest loss, I ask, in justice, that I may be restored to my command at least until Vicksburg shall have fallen. Only two days before my banishment from the Department of the Tennessee, General Grant had increased my command by the positive addition of one division and by the contingent addition of two others, making it larger than the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps combined, and therefore cannot consistently object upon the score of distrust of my fidelity or ability.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

[Inclosure A.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Battle-field near Vicksburg, Miss., June 4, 1863.

[Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:]

GENERAL: What appears to be a systematic effort to destroy my usefulness and character as a commander makes it proper that I should address you this note. It is reported, among other things, as I understand, that I attacked on the 22d ultimo without authority; again, that I attacked too late; again, that I am responsible for your failure and

* See McClernand to Grant, June 18, p. 166.
† See Inclosure No. 1, p. 159.
‡ See Inclosure No. 3, p. 162.
§ See Inclosure No. 6, p. 164.

losses; again, that I am arrested and being sent North; again, that my command is turned over to another officer, and, again, that you have personally assumed command of it. These reports are finding their way from the landings up the river. I hardly need say to you that all these reports are false; that I obeyed orders in attacking; that my attack was prompt and in a larger measure more successful than any other; that the ultimate failure of the general attack and the losses attending it were, under the circumstances, unavoidable consequences of obstacles found to be unsurmountable, and [notwithstanding] a determined effort, at least on my part, to carry and hold the works in obedience to your express and peremptory order. You know that I am not yet under arrest, or being sent away, or superseded in my command. All these things being known to you, and these false reports being brought to your notice, it remains for you to determine whether truth, justice, and generosity do not call on you for such a declaration as will be conclusive in the matter.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure E.]

BATTLE-FIELD, NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS.,
June 18, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

Your order, relieving me and assigning Major-General Ord to the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps, is received. Having been appointed by the President to the command of that corps, under a definite act of Congress, I might justly challenge your authority in the premises, but forbear to do so at present. I am quite willing that any statement of fact in my congratulatory [order] to the Thirteenth Army Corps, to which you think just exception may be taken, should be made the subject of investigation, not doubting the result.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

—

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *June* 27, 1863.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

Under authority conferred by you in previous correspondence to communicate freely, I inclose the accompanying correspondence* between Major-General Grant and myself. From that correspondence you will learn that General Grant has assumed power to relieve me from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps and to banish me from the Department of the Tennessee. The ostensible motive for this act is the failure of my adjutant to send General Grant a copy of a congratulatory order communicated to commanders of divisions of the Thirteenth Army Corps, the design of which was to assert the just claims of that corps and to stimulate its soldierly pride and conduct.

The order reflected upon no one, nor was it to have been expected that I could have personally supervised the routine of the adjutant's office in this or any like particular. I was in the presence of the enemy,

* See McClernand to Halleck, p. 165.

and my attention and best efforts were due to what was transpiring in the field; besides, sent or unsent, outside of the purpose mentioned, the order effected nothing.

The real motive for so unwarranted an act was hostility—personal hostility—growing out of the early connection of my name with the Mississippi River expedition and your assignment of me to the command of it. This feeling subsequently became intensified by the contrast made by my success at Arkansas Post with General Grant's retreat from Oxford and his repulse at Chickasaw Bayou, and, later still, more intensified by the leadership and success of my corps during the advance from Milliken's Bend to Port Gibson, to Champion's Hill, and to Big Black. In all these battles my corps led the advance and bore the brunt; indeed, I made the dispositions for the battles of Port Gibson and Champion's Hill, also for the battle of Big Black, which was fought on our part alone by my own corps.

During May 19, 20, 21, and 22, I lost 1,487 men killed and wounded before Vicksburg in fruitless attempts to carry the enemy's works, in obedience to General Grant's orders—orders which, under the circumstances, were incapable of execution.

On the 22d, I was the first to attack. I made the only lodgments; held them all day under a scorching sun and wasting fire, while the corps on my right, sustaining repulse, left the enemy to mass upon me. Yet, so far as I have seen, the only dispatch from General Grant noticing me or the Thirteenth Army Corps placed me in the position of bringing up the rear.

The fact that McPherson and Sherman gained the lead for a day or two by reason of the temporary substitution of Jackson for Edwards Station as the objective point of the army's movements, was the occasion for a statement calculated to induce the belief that I was uniformly in the rear. All this, however, is but consistent with the motive that censured me for the Arkansas expedition, which, fortunately for me and the country, terminated in the fall of Post Arkansas, and the attempt to charge me with the failure at Chickasaw Bayou, which occurred before I took command of the Mississippi River expedition.

I ask, in justice, for an investigation of General Grant's and my conduct as officers from the battle of Belmont to the assault of the 22d upon Vicksburg, inclusive; and meantime, until the public service will allow the investigation, that I be restored to my command, at least until the fall of Vicksburg. General Grant cannot consistently object to the latter, because only two days before my dismission he made my command larger than the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Army Corps combined by the addition of one division certainly and two others contingently, thus in an emergency, notwithstanding his personal feelings, testifying his confidence in my fidelity and capability. Please early advise me of the determination of the Government in the premises.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

—

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *June* 30, 1863.

His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
President of the United States:

Major-General McClernand arrived here on the 26th instant. He has been received by the people here with the greatest demonstrations of

respect, all regretting that he is not now in the field. I desire to suggest that if General McClernand, with some Western troops, was put in command of Pennsylvania, it would inspire great hope and confidence in the Northwest, and perhaps throughout the country.

RICH'D YATES,
Governor.

—

SPRINGFIELD, ILL.,
August 24, 1863.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

On June 27, ultimo, I had the honor to address you a respectful communication, giving the circumstances attending my removal by General Grant from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps, and containing, among other things, the following passages:

I ask, in justice, for an investigation of General Grant's and my conduct as officers from the battle of Belmont to the assault of May 22 on Vicksburg, inclusive.

* * * * * * *

Please early advise me of the determination of the Government in the premises.

Fearing that the foregoing matter, in the multitude of your engagements, has escaped your attention, I write again, respectfully asking that you will please immediately advise me whether the desired investigation will or will not be ordered.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

—

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *September* 5, 1863.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th ultimo.* By it I am advised that the President has declined to order a court of inquiry. If the reason for this determination was because my application contemplated an investigation extending beyond my own official conduct, I beg to obviate the objection by requesting a court of inquiry simply to investigate my own conduct. If the court be granted, I would prefer that its jurisdiction be extended to my entire conduct as an United States officer in the present war; or, if that may not be, to my conduct in connection with the Mississippi River expedition; or, if that may not be, to my conduct in connection with the late campaign from Milliken's Bend around to Vicksburg, and resulting in the fall of that place.

Pardon this further intrusion upon your attention, which is made in no improper spirit, but to ascertain the intended effect of the President's determination, and to ask of you to further oblige me by early advising me in the premises.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

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* Not found.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, September 14, 1863.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND,
Springfield, Ill.:

GENERAL: Your letter of the 5th instant has been submitted to the President, who directs me to say that a court of inquiry embracing any one of the subjects specified in that letter would necessarily withdraw from the field many officers whose presence with their commands is absolutely indispensable to the service, and whose absence might cause irreparable injury to the success of operations now in active progress. For these reasons he declines at present your applications, but if hereafter it can be done without prejudice to the service, he will, in view of your anxiety upon the subject, order a court.

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

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SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *September* 28, 1863.

To the PRESIDENT:

Failing to be restored to my command (now, as I understand, passed from General Grant's control), or to any command, and failing also to obtain a court of inquiry, no other mode of self-vindication is left to me than an official and responsible statement by myself of my own case. The accompanying paper is that statement, which I send to you for your perusal as a matter rightfully claiming your attention, and which, in justice to myself, my children, and my friends, I propose to publish.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. MCCLERNAND,
Major-General.

OCTOBER 9, 1863.

P. S.—Governor [Richard] Yates, having returned from Ohio without visiting Washington and delivering this note and accompanying package, I avail myself of the first opportunity to send both by mail. I also send copies of the statement of my case to the Secretary of War and the General-in-Chief.

[Inclosure.]

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *September* 25, 1863.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
General-in-Chief:

This paper is respectfully communicated as an official and responsible protest against portions of Major-General Grant's report of the 6th ultimo, purporting to give an account of the operations of the Army of the Tennessee in the late campaign resulting in the fall of Vicksburg. To allow that report, with its multitude of errors, inaccuracies, and imperfections to pass unnoticed by me would allow the truth of history to be jeoparded and gross injustice done not only to myself but to my comrades in arms of the Thirteenth Army Corps without an effort to prevent it. This I am unwilling should be done.

How far General Grant is indebted to the forbearance of officers under his command for his retention in the public service so long, I will not undertake to state unless he should challenge it. None know better

than himself how much he is indebted to that forbearance. Neither will I undertake to show that he is indebted to the good conduct of officers and men of his command at different times for the series of successes that have gained him applause rather than to his own merit as a commander, unless he should challenge it, too. It will suffice in this connection to say that while I have been and still am proud of the honors that have been conferred upon him as my commander, I only regret that he should use the influence he has acquired (in a considerable degree through the efforts of citizen soldiers) for any purpose less commendable than the promotion of the public good.

General Grant's report appears to have two objects—one to give an account of the operations of his army, the other to disparage me; and any one who will carefully and candidly read it, can hardly fail to perceive that in a persistent effort to do the latter he has interrupted the logical and orderly development of the former and marred the symmetry of an official document. Take, for example, his narrative of the assault of May 22 upon the defenses of Vicksburg. He says:

> All the corps commanders set their time by mine, that there should be no difference between them in movement of assault. Promptly at the hour designated the three army corps, then in front of the enemy's works, commenced the assault.
>
> * * * * * * *
>
> The assault was gallant in the extreme on the part of all the troops, but the enemy's position was too strong, both naturally and artificially, to be taken in that way. At every point assaulted, and at all of them at the same time, the enemy was able to show all the force his works would cover. The assault failed, I regret to say, with much loss on our side in killed and wounded, but without weakening the confidence of the troops in their ability ultimately to succeed.

Here is a clear and unequivocal admission that all the corps and their commanders did their duty—their whole duty; that their conduct was gallant in the extreme; that the assault failed with much loss in killed and wounded of our men, and only because the enemy's position was too strong, both naturally and artificially, to be taken by assault. Yet, in juxtaposition and in contradiction to this clear and unmistakable admission, he goes on to argue, through a longer space than that devoted to the legitimate account of the assault, that I sent false dispatches, and thereby caused Sherman and McPherson to make an assault, resulting—

> in the increase of our mortality list full 50 per cent., without advancing our position or giving us other advantages.

Again, he says:

> Each corps had many more men than could possibly be used in the assault, over such ground as intervened between them and the enemy. More men could only avail in case of breaking through the enemy's line, or in repelling a sortie.

Again—

> No troops succeeded in entering any of the enemy's works, with the exception of Sergeant Griffith, of Twenty-first [Twenty-second] Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and some 11 privates of same regiment. Of these none returned except the sergeant and possibly 1 man. The work entered by him from its position could give us no practical advantage, unless others to the right and left of it were carried and held at the same time. About 12 m. I received a dispatch from McClernand that he was hard pressed at several points, in reply to which I directed him to re-enforce the points hard pressed from such troops as he had that were not engaged. I then rode around to Sherman, and had just reached there, when I received a second dispatch from McClernand, stating positively and unequivocally that he was in possession of, and still held, two of the enemy's forts; that the American flag then waved over them, and asking me to have Sherman and McPherson make a diversion in his favor. This dispatch I showed to Sherman, who immediately ordered a renewal of the assault on his front. I also sent an answer to McClernand, directing him to order up McArthur to his assistance,

and started immediately to the position I had just left on McPherson's line, to convey to him the information from McClernand by this last dispatch, that he might make the diversion requested.

Again—

I had taken a commanding position near McPherson's front, and from which I could see all the advancing columns from his corps, and a part of each of Sherman's and McClernand's. A portion of the commands of each succeeded in planting their flags on the outer slopes of the enemy's bastions, and maintained them there until night.

* * * * * * *

The position occupied by me during most of the time of the assault gave me a better opportunity of seeing what was going on in front of the Thirteenth Army Corps than I believed it possible for the commander of it to have. I could not see his possession of forts nor necessity for re-enforcements, as represented in his dispatches, up to the time I left it, which was between 12 m. and 1 p. m., and I expressed doubts of their correctness, which doubts the facts subsequently, but too late, confirmed. At the time I could not disregard his reiterated statements, for they might possibly be true; and that no possible opportunity of carrying the enemy's stronghold should be allowed to escape through fault of mine, I ordered Quinby's division, which was all of McPherson's corps then present but four brigades, to report to McClernand, and notified him of the order.

Before proceeding to examine the statements contained in these extracts, it is proper, as tending to the elucidation of the matters to which they relate, that I should give General Grant's order for the assault, and the dispatches that passed between him and me during the following day in relation to it.

GENERAL FIELD ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
No. —. } *Near Vicksburg, May* 21, 1863.

A simultaneous attack will be made to-morrow at 10 a. m. by all the army corps of this army. During the day army corps commanders will have examined all practicable roads over which troops can possibly pass. They will get in position all the artillery possible, and gain all the ground they can with their infantry and skirmishers. At an early hour in the morning, a vigorous attack will be commenced by the artillery and skirmishers. The infantry, with the exception of reserves and skirmishers, will be placed in columns of platoons, or by a flank if the ground over which they may have to pass will not admit of a greater front, ready to move forward at the hour designated. Promptly at the hour designated all will start at quick time, with bayonets fixed, and march immediately upon the enemy without firing a gun until the outer works are carried. The troops will go light, carrying with them only their ammunition, canteens, and one day's rations. The skirmishers will advance as soon as possible after heads of columns pass them, and scale the walls of such works as may confront them. If prosecuted with vigor, it is confidently believed this course will carry Vicksburg in a very short time, and with much less loss than would be sustained by delay. Every day's delay enables the enemy to strengthen his defenses and increase his chance for receiving aid from outside.

By order of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant:

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Major-General MCCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps.

Nothing is said in this order respecting the expediency of a feint on my left, which was uncovered and unsupported from the point where it rested for the whole length of the enemy's lines (some 4 miles) around to the Mississippi below Vicksburg. To secure the advantage of such a demonstration, I ordered Major [Daniel B.] Bush, [jr.,] commanding the Second Illinois Cavalry, during the night of the 21st to build fires to my left in front of the enemy's works, and to push forward pickets close enough to them to excite the belief and apprehension that they were invested and threatened. This was skillfully and effectually done, and to it I attribute the failure of the enemy the next day to attempt to advance from his works and turn my left.

I advised General Grant of this purpose in the following dispatch:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Field, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863—1.30 a. m.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

COLONEL: The major-general commanding directs me to say that he has formed his lines, taken his positions, and is prepared. He has determined upon a feint upon the left. In case of the feint or attack, he will instruct division commanders to take and press every opportunity and advantage that offers. He is prepared to begin a cannonade at daylight this morning.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

WALTER B. SCATES,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

P. S.—The major-general commanding further directs me to inform Major-General Grant that he was very much annoyed on yesterday by one of the enemy's batteries on his right, which poured a cross-fire upon his lines. He desires that General McPherson may concentrate his fire upon this battery as far as possible early in the morning.

Early on the morning of the 22d, preparatory to the contemplated assault of my infantry, I opened with all my artillery (thirty-nine pieces), and breaching the enemy's works in several places, silenced his guns. My infantry promptly following with their assault at 10 o'clock, pressed the advantage, of which I advised General Grant in the following dispatch:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In Battle-field, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863—11.15 a. m.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: I am hotly engaged with the enemy. He is massing on me from the right and left. A vigorous blow by McPherson would make a diversion in my favor.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

General Grant sent the following dispatch:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In rear of Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863—11.50 a. m.

General McCLERNAND:

If your advance is weak, strengthen it by drawing from your reserves or other parts of the lines.

Very respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

Again, I sent a dispatch as follows:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

GENERAL: We have gained the enemy's intrenchments at several points, but are brought to a stand. I have sent word to McArthur to re-enforce me if he can. Would it not be best to concentrate the whole or a part of his command at this point?

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

P. S.—I have received your dispatch. My troops are all engaged, and I cannot withdraw any to re-enforce others.

And again the following dispatch:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Battle-field, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863—12 m.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

GENERAL: We are hotly engaged with the enemy. We have part possession of two forts, and the Stars and Stripes are floating over them. A vigorous push ought to be made all along the line.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

General Grant sent the following dispatches:

FROM FIELD SIGNAL STATION.

General MCCLERNAND:

McArthur advanced from Warrenton last night. He is on your left. Communicate with him, and use his forces to the best advantage.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

FROM FIELD SIGNAL STATION.

General MCCLERNAND:

Sherman and McPherson are pressing the enemy. If one portion of your troops are pressed, re-enforce them from another. Sherman has gained some successes.

U. S. GRANT.

MAY 22, 1863—2.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I have sent a dispatch to you saying that McArthur left Warrenton last night. Was about half way to the city this morning at 1 a. m. Communicate with him, and use his forces to the best advantage. McPherson is directed to send Quinby's division to you if he cannot effect a lodgment where he is. Quinby is next to your right, and you will be aided as much by his penetrating into the enemy's lines as by having him to support the columns you have already got. Sherman is getting on well.

Yours,

U. S. GRANT.
Major-General.

Subsequently General Grant changed his mind, and ordered two brigades of Quinby's division to report to me, upon notice of which I sent the following dispatch to General Grant:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
May 22, 1863—3.15 p. m.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

GENERAL: I have received your dispatches in regard to General Quinby's division and General McArthur's. As soon as they arrive, I will press the enemy with all possible dispatch, and doubt not that I will force my way through. I have lost no ground. My men are in two of the enemy's forts, but they are commanded by rifle-pits in the rear. Several prisoners have been taken, who intimate that the rear is strong. At this moment I am hard pressed.

JOHN A. MCCLERNAND.
Major-General, Commanding.

Returning to the foregoing extracts from General Grant's report, it is found that he distinctly and emphatically affirms—

1. That "each corps had many more men than could possibly be used in the assault," and that "more men could only avail in case of breaking through the enemy's lines," &c.

In noticing this allegation, it is proper that I should advert to a few prefatory facts, which seem to have escaped the attention of General Grant.

My army corps (the Thirteenth), in common with others, even before it commenced the march from Milliken's Bend, had been deplorably wasted and diminished by disease and death, caused by useless but exhausting labor in digging and opening canals, sometimes unintermitted during nights, and often attended with exposure in rain and in mud and water. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of valuable lives were lost in that way. Others of my corps were added to this list, in consequence of exposure encountered in making roads, repairing and watching levees, and building bridges across bayous, while opening the way for themselves and other corps that followed from Milliken's Bend to Car-

thage and to Hard Times, and still others were subsequently added by the casualties of battle.

Leading the advance to Port Gibson, Champion's Hill, and Big Black, and bearing the brunt of these battles, the losses of my corps in them probably exceeded those of all the rest of the army operating in the same field up to the same date. Including these losses and those sustained by it in the assault of May 19 upon Vicksburg, and in previous skirmishes occurring during the advance upon that place, and by disease during the same period, it had lost full 3,000 men in killed, wounded, missing, and sick since it had crossed the Mississippi and before the assault of May 22 upon Vicksburg; in other words, within the short space of twenty-two days. In addition to this, two regiments of my command had been left, by General Grant's order, on the west bank of the Mississippi to garrison a post, two other regiments of it had been sent away to guard captives, and a whole brigade of it had been left behind by him at Champion's Hill, leaving with me only the skeleton and name of a corps.

In estimating my available and effective force at Vicksburg on the morning of May 22 at 10,000, I do not think I am wide of the mark. On the same morning, with this meager and inadequate force, I was holding a line 1¼ miles in length, confronted by a corresponding line of hostile rifle-pits, and numerous forts, redoubts, lunettes, and epaulements occupied by artillery, covering and supporting the rifle-pits. On my left, as I have already explained, I was wholly unsupported for some 4 miles around to the Mississippi below Vicksburg, leaving the enemy's works uninvested for the same distance, and my left flank exposed to the danger of a sortie or being turned. On my right there was a gap between it and McPherson's left, and this gap was crossed by a road leading from the enemy's works. The front of the three army corps was some 3 or 4 miles in length.

General Grant admits in his report that "at every point assaulted, and at all of them at the same time, the enemy was able to show all the force his works would cover," and his works could not have been less than 6 or 7 miles in length; indeed, it is doubtful whether at the moment of the assault the enemy's force inside of his works was not as strong as ours investing them. I understand that intelligent general officers have expressed that opinion. This disadvantage was enhanced by General Grant's plan, which required "all the army corps" to advance from their respective positions and make a "simultaneous attack," thus attenuating the line, or multiplying the columns of attack, and thereby weakening it.

It follows, therefore, from these facts that if the nature of the ground would not allow all of our diminished force to be used, no assault should have been made; but the ground in my front would have allowed more men than I had to be used. They could have been used in augmenting the weight and momentum of my attacking columns and in maintaining the advantages gained by them; they could have been used in widening the front of my attacking columns and in assaulting the curtain connecting two forts forming the points of my attack, and to which a brigade of Quinby's division, of McPherson's corps, when it came up to re-enforce me, was about to be applied, when night cut short the conflict. They could have been used in these ways, and no doubt with the effect of increasing the advantage gained by my columns, weak as they were, from the causes mentioned, and notwithstanding the obstacles they had to overcome in the nature of the ground they passed over.

Concentration of our forces against one or two points, and not the dis-

persion of them into a multitude of columns, was my volunteered suggestion to General Grant the day before the assault, when he announced his purpose to make it. General Sherman's was that it was a question of how many men he was willing to lose. And concentration, doubtless, was the true policy, and with it directed against one or two points, aided by a feint against others, we might have been successful. Without it we failed, with the loss of many lives as an answer to General Sherman's question. My men having succeeded in breaking through the enemy's line, the contingency had arisen in which General Grant admits that more men might have been available, and yet he censures me for asking re-enforcements.

2. He affirms that "no troops succeeded in entering any of the enemy's works with the exception of Sergeant Griffith, of the Twenty-first [Twenty-second] Regiment Iowa Volunteers, and some 11 privates of the same regiment."

The meaning of the term "works" here becomes important. Has it a definite signification; and, if so, what is it? In military parlance, according to received lexicographers, it means walls, trenches, and the like, made for fortifications. In this sense, as a military man, doubtless, General Grant uses it, and in this sense he is mistaken, as the sequel will show that not only did Sergeant Griffith and the men with him enter the enemy's works, but that Lieutenant-Colonel [H.] Graham, of the Twenty-second Iowa, with some 200 men, charged the enemy's intrenchments and drove him away, and held them until near nightfall. And I may add that men of Benton's and Burbridge's brigades, of Carr's and Smith's divisions, did about as much, driving the enemy from another part of his trenches.

3. General Grant affirms that he

> received a second dispatch from McClernand, stating positively and unequivocally that he was in possession of, and still held, two of the enemy's forts; that the American flag then waved over them, and asking to have Sherman and McPherson make a diversion in his favor.

General Sherman, in his report of the assault, in alluding to this same dispatch, says:

> Having heard McClernand's report to General Grant read, that he had taken three of the enemy's forts, and that his flags floated on the stronghold of Vicksburg, I ordered General Tuttle to send directly to the assault one of his brigades.

Here are two versions of my dispatch, one General Grant's and the other General Sherman's. Why did not General Grant give the dispatch *totidem verbis?* In a question of veracity between us it was but fair and just that he should have done so. I never wrote or knowingly authorized such a dispatch to be sent. If he received such an one purporting to come from me, it was through the mistake of a copyist. The dispatch I did write and authorize to be sent to him was very different. In most material part it was nearly the opposite. It was that I had part possession; not that my possession was complete; not that it was undisputed; not that it was secure; but that it was disputed and insecure, and needed to be strengthened and perfected by re-enforcements or a diversion. On the contrary, I would not have asked for support without having first unsuccessfully tried to press my advantage. As to my saying that the American flag waved over two forts, and asking to have Sherman and McPherson make a diversion in my favor, I have only to add that while again my language is not given, the facts stated are substantially true, as will hereafter appear.

The original of the mooted dispatch and the authentication of its

genuineness by Sergeant Rugg, Company A, Seventy-seventh Illinois Infantry, is in the following words and figures:

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Battle-Field, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 22, 1863—12 m.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT:

GENERAL: We are hotly engaged with the enemy. We have part possession of two forts, and the Stars and Stripes are waving over them. A vigorous push ought to be made all along the line.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Certificate.]

This is a correct and perfect copy of the original dispatch, which I have seen and read.

A. H. RUGG.

4. General Grant affirms that he "had taken a commanding position near McPherson's front," &c. That "the position occupied by" him "during most of the assault gave" him "a better opportunity of seeing what was going on in front of the Thirteenth Army Corps than" he "believed it possible for the commander of it to have," and that he "could not see McClernand's possession of forts nor necessity for re-enforcements, as represented in his dispatches." That General Grant had taken "a commanding position near McPherson's front" may be true. That he could not see my "possession of forts nor necessity for re-enforcements," may also be true. His position, although commanding, may not have enabled him to do it, although the facts may have existed. Indeed, he admits in another part of his report that he could only see "a part of each of Sherman's and McClernand's advancing columns," but that his position gave him "a better opportunity of seeing what was going on in front of the Thirteenth Army Corps" than mine afforded me, is a mistake. As I understand, he was about 1½ miles to the right of my position, which was a commanding one, only 500 or 600 yards in the rear of the center of my advance and from the enemy's works. I could see, and did see, flags of my corps planted upon the enemy's works, and could see, and did see, officers and men of my command enter them and rebel captives brought out of them. General Grant himself admits—not, as I understand, from his own personal knowledge—that "Sergeant Griffith and some 11 privates" of my command "entered one of the forts," but upon information derived from others, perhaps from my official report.

5. He affirms that he "sent an answer to McClernand, directing him to order up McArthur to his assistance," and himself "ordered Quinby's division * * * to report to McClernand." He said he did this because he "could not disregard" my "reiterated statements," although he "could not see" my "possession of forts, nor necessity for re-enforcements," and although he doubted the truth of my dispatches. Doubting in a matter of such vital importance imposed an absolute obligation to investigate—to go or send a staff officer, and see and clear up his doubts. Not to do so would render him guilty of an omission as culpable as the act of commission charged by him upon me. He admits that he rode over to Sherman's position and showed him my dispatch and rode back again to McPherson's. Why could he not, why did he not, ride or send over to me? He admits, furthermore, that he was not occupying the "commanding position near McPherson's front" when he received the dispatch upon which he based his orders to Sherman and McPherson for the renewal of the assault, but was at Sherman's

position—probably a mile or two beyond McPherson's and probably out of sight of his position as well as my own. Could he there see; was it possible for him there to see whether I had "possession of forts" and needed re-enforcements? He does not, and I presume he could not, say so. It is true that, as above stated, General Grant ordered re-enforcements, but he does not say, as already shown by his dispatches, that he delayed sending Quinby's division, and that neither it nor McArthur's, as will be shown by the sequel, arrived in time.

In support and confirmation of what I have thus denied or affirmed respecting General Grant's allegations—that I had "more men than could possibly be used in the assault," and that "more men could only avail in case of breaking through the enemy's lines," &c.; that he "received a second dispatch from McClernand stating positively and unequivocally that he was in possession of and still held two of the enemy's forts; that the American flag waved over them, and asking to have Sherman and McPherson make a diversion in his favor;" that he "had taken a commanding position near McPherson's front," &c.; that "the position occupied by" him "during most of the assault gave" him "a better opportunity of seeing what was going on in front of the Thirteenth Army Corps than" he "believed it possible for the commander of it to have," and that he "could not see" McClernand's "possession of forts nor necessity for re-enforcements," &c.—in support and confirmation of all that I have denied or affirmed in regard to these matters, I offer the following testimony of living, disinterested, and creditable witnesses, who speak of what they saw, did, and knew of that of which they were *magnum pars:*

1.—*Dispatch of Brig. Gen. M. K. Lawler, commanding Second Brigade, Fourteenth Division, and Col. W. J. Landram (Nineteenth Kentucky), commanding Second Brigade, Tenth Division, whose commands formed one of my columns of attack.*

SECOND BRIGADE, TENTH DIVISION—10.10.

General MCCLERNAND, per General SMITH:

The enemy are massing their forces in our front. No movement of our troops on our left. We ought to have re-enforcements.

M. K. LAWLER,
Brigadier-General.
W. J. LANDRAM,
Colonel, Commanding Second Brigade.

2.—*Dispatch of W. J. Landram, colonel, commanding brigade, to General Smith, and forwarded to me.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, TENTH DIVISION,
May 22, 1863—2.40 p. m.

General SMITH,
Commanding Tenth Division:

Our men are holding the flanks of the fort in our front. There is a heavy cross-fire upon us, and we have lost many killed and wounded. They are hurling hand-grenades upon us, and hurting us considerably in that way.

Yours, &c.,

W. J. LANDRAM,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

3.—*Letter of Col. William M. Stone.*

KNOXVILLE, IOWA, *September* 8, 1863.

Major-General MCCLERNAND:

In reply to your interrogatories presented by Mr. Jones, I state the following facts, which occurred under my observation, connected with the assault of the Thirteenth Army Corps upon the enemy's works at Vicksburg on May 22 last:

I was in command of the Twenty-second Iowa, which regiment was in the Second

Brigade, Fourteenth Division, of said corps. On the evening of May 21, I was served with a copy of the circular or order directing the assault to be made the next day at 10 a. m. I was informed by my brigade commander (General Lawler) that I would have the advance, and that I could approach any point of the enemy's works I considered the most salient, and in any form I thought proper. Between sundown and dark I went up to within 50 yards of the enemy's lines, and made a personal reconnaissance of the ground on our front and of their lines. My observations satisfied me that the fort next to the railroad could be carried more easily and with less sacrifice than any other point on our front, and I determined to direct my regiment against it. I took my regiment over the hill in front of Maloney's siege battery that night, and had it in readiness for the morning's work. At a little before 10 o'clock by my time, I received the order from General Lawler's assistant adjutant-general to advance, and I did so immediately, supported by the Twenty-first Iowa. I advanced as I intended, directly against the fort, but in passing over the crest of the hill the enemy's fire was so terrific that the left wing of my regiment was driven into the hollow on the left of the fort, but the right wing advanced steadily toward the fort, and within ten minutes from the time we started my men entered it, and held it, to my knowledge, for over an hour. The fort was small, and the open space inside very limited, and but few men could find room in it. When the enemy were driven from the fort, they also retired from the rifle-pits on the right (our right), between that and the railroad. The Eleventh Wisconsin had also advanced against the second fort, some 300 yards from the first one, and I saw the enemy leave that one. They also retired from the pits between the two forts, and went down the hill into the ravine or hollow beyond toward the city, leaving only a few straggling sharpshooters behind. I stood with Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap, of the Twenty-first Iowa, on the highest and most exposed point near the fort. We saw them leave and conversed about it. I sent word back to General Carr to send me a brigade and I would hold the works. I regarded the thing as easily done. I do not know that my message reached the general.

I then regarded the door to Vicksburg as opened, and so said to Colonel Dunlap, and we were there looking over the ground, congratulating ourselves upon our success, when I was shot in the arm by a sharpshooter from the woods beyond their rifle-pits, and he was killed. I ordered the color-bearer of the Seventy-seventh Illinois to bring up his colors, as mine were down in the hollow on the left, and my own men planted them on top of the fort. Soon after this my own colors were brought up and placed beside them. They remained there to my certain knowledge till 6 o'clock in the evening. Had we been re-enforced at any time before 12 m. by a fresh brigade, I have no doubt that the whole army could have gone into Vicksburg. After that my knowledge of the situation up there was not so good, as I had retired from the field. I stated this opinion to several after I went back. There were no interior works at that time in the rear of the line we held, as I could see far beyond. Maloney's battery of siege guns was about 500 yards directly in the rear of our operations, and commanded a fine view of all our movements. I do not know where General McPherson's headquarters were, but I should think there was no point from which our operations could have been so correctly observed as from this battery.

W. M. STONE,
Late Colonel Twenty-second Iowa.

4.—*Letter of Lieut. Col. Harvey Graham.*

BENTON BARRACKS, MO., *September* 1, 1863.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND:

Your note of August 26 has just been handed to me by Mr. Jones, and in reply I hasten to say:

1. That on May 22, ultimo, when the combined assault was made upon the enemy's works at Vicksburg, my position was such as afforded me only an opportunity of viewing the doings of Lawler's brigade. Early in the morning of that day my regiment was formed in line on the extreme right of Lawler's brigade, and as we led the advance I can only speak of the successes attending that portion of your command. It is my firm conviction and belief that had the Thirteenth Army Corps been re-enforced by a few brigades, thus enabling you to send support to the front, the success of your command would have been complete. As it was, success was achieved, but was afterward lost. Victory was in your hands, but was wrested from you by superior numbers.

2. At 10 a. m., I, with some 200 of my command, charged upon the defenses of the enemy, and within thirty minutes had stormed one of the forts and driven the enemy away from the front of their works, and had possession of his intrenchments. This was one of the principal forts of the enemy, and was situated almost directly in front of Maloney's battery of Parrott guns. My command held their position there until nearly dark, when, from the want of proper support, they were captured. Sergeants [N. C.] Messenger and Griffith, of Company I, Twenty-second Iowa, entered

the fort with about 20 men, capturing many prisoners, and remaining inside the works until nearly all were killed. This occurred between 10.30 and 12 m., as near as I can judge. Sergeant Griffith was inside the fort over an hour, and had I had the men to send to his aid, I could have retained it in full possession.

3. Two stand of colors were planted upon the parapet of the fort by 11 a. m., and remained there all day, in spite of all the efforts of the enemy to capture them. Late in the evening, as it was nearly dark, they were taken, having floated for over nine hours on the highest portion of the works.

4. * * * Between 11 a. m. and 12 m. I observed that the enemy all along the line, especially at the fort to my right, seemed to be panic-stricken, and it is my impression that could a strong attack have then been made, the works would have all been carried.

5. The ground upon which Maloney's battery was situated was about 600 yards from the works of the enemy, and was the most commanding position in the neighborhood, and afforded ample opportunity for witnessing all the movements of the Thirteenth Army Corps. From my position on the fort I could see nothing of that portion of the field where General McPherson's headquarters were, and am convinced no one could observe the operations of my command from that point.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HARVEY GRAHAM,
Lieutenant-Colonel Twenty-second Iowa Infantry.

5.—*Letter of Maj. J. B. Atherton.*

KNOXVILLE, IOWA, *September* 5, 1863.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND:

DEAR SIR: In answer to certain questions propounded by you concerning my knowledge of the action of the Thirteenth Army Corps in the assault upon the enemy's defenses in the rear of Vicksburg on May 22 last, I would state:

1. That I was major of the Twenty-second Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry, and participated in said assault. I was with the left wing of my regiment, and, from the rough and uneven character of the country and the abatis of the enemy, could not see the action of any but my own brigade. The assault began near 10 a. m., and within three-quarters of an hour from that time the colors of our regiment and one other (Seventy-seventh Illinois) were raised upon the fort immediately in our front. The fort was occupied by our men from one to two hours. Our colors remained upon it for the same time. We were successful, and could have held what we had gained had we been re-enforced at the proper time. We were compelled to fall back before superior numbers of the enemy and our men to abandon the fort.

2. The enemy was driven from the fort above referred to. It was occupied by our men; held by them over an hour—as long as it was possible to hold it without additional force. The two stand of colors mentioned in my answer to the first interrogatory were planted on it, one of which remained there several hours.

3. I have ever been of opinion, and have no doubt, that had we been re-enforced by two divisions when in possession of the fort, we would have held it, forced our way through the enemy's works, and driven them from our right and left. The possession of this fort by us divided the enemy, and prevented them from rallying rapidly from right to left as occasion might require, giving us command of the rifle-pits on either side, which could soon have been cleared of the enemy, and an entrance made for any number of troops needed.

4. The position of Maloney's battery being immediately in our rear and on a high point, afforded a much better opportunity for witnessing the action of the Thirteenth Army Corps than any position a half mile or more either to the right or left of it could afford.

I am, general, with much respect, your obedient servant,

J. B. ATHERTON,
Late Major Twenty-second Iowa Infantry.

6.—*Letter of Sergt. A. H. Rugg.*

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *August* 31, 1863.

I hereby certify that I was on the field with Major-General McClernand at Vicksburg on May 22, 1863, and saw the flags of the Seventy-seventh Illinois Infantry planted on the rebel forts. The national colors were afterward carried inside and captured, together with a number of men of the regiment, after nightfall.

A. H. RUGG,
Sergeant Company A, Seventy-seventh Illinois Infantry.

7.—Letter of H. C. Warmoth, late lieutenant-colonel and aide-de-camp.

SAINT NICHOLAS HOTEL,
Springfield, Ill., August 24, 1863.

GENERAL: In answer to your inquiry of this date, I have to say that I was detached from my regiment by order of Major-General Grant, with orders to report to you for duty upon your staff. I was with you in the siege of Vicksburg up to the evening of May 22, when I was wounded and caught by you in your arms as I fell. On May 22 I was repeatedly sent by you to different parts of the field, and had good opportunities of knowing what was done by your corps (Thirteenth) on that occasion.

At 10 o'clock your columns of attack moved forward to the assault. In less than one hour, Joseph E. Griffith, a sergeant of the Twenty-second Iowa, with a part of the storming party, entered one of the works of the enemy, drove the enemy out, and held the place for some hours. He captured 13 men with a lieutenant in this work, and reported them to you about 2 o'clock. Lieutenant-Colonel Graham, of the Twenty-second Iowa, with a small detachment, entered another fort and drove the enemy out, maintaining himself there until after nightfall, when the enemy massed their forces upon us and drove us back from our line, which was up to the works of the enemy, capturing Lieutenant-Colonel Graham and his men. The American flag floated from on top of two of the enemy's works, and our men kept them there until after nightfall, as I am informed. They were there when I was wounded, which was after 5 o'clock. All this time many of our men were in the ditches of the enemy, and sent back for spades and shovels with which to dig down the enemy's works.

About 5.30 o'clock a part, if not the whole, of Quinby's division arrived. McArthur did not arrive until next day (May 23). I believed then if the two divisions had arrived in reasonable time that we would have been able to have pushed through the lines of the enemy. It was so believed by every officer I saw.

Your position during the assault was to the left and a little to the rear of our battery of 30-pounder Parrotts, which was about 600 yards from the enemy's works. We could plainly see the line of works in our front and to the extreme left of our corps, but a part of the right was obstructed by the foliage of a grove of trees. This was the best point for observation along our entire line, and from the top of the battery, where you often went for observation, you could see perfectly everything in our front from right to left.

In my opinion, it was about 1½ miles from the elevated point in General McPherson's line from which he and General Grant made observations. The position occupied by them was perhaps higher ground, but I do not believe they could observe our movements with the accuracy we could from the position occupied by you.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

H. C. WARMOTH,
Late Lieutenant-Colonel and Aide-de-Camp.

8.—Letter of F. H. Mason, late captain and aide-de-camp.

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., *August* 24, 1863.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND:

SIR: Your note of this morning is received, and in reply I beg leave to submit the following report:

1. I was acting throughout the attack on Vicksburg in the capacity of aide-de-camp on your staff, and being sent at various times to your division and brigade commanders with orders, inquiries, &c., and being all the remainder of the time, when not thus occupied in your immediate presence, taking notes of the various incidents and hearing the various messages and reports brought by staff and general officers to you, I enjoyed as good advantages for hearing and seeing the assault and the part you took as could be possible for any one in my capacity.

2. At about 10.10 a. m. on the 22d, I saw the advance of General Lawler's brigade, of Carr's division, rush up the slope leading to the large work of the enemy immediately to the left of the railroad. Though met by a fierce fire, they continued to advance, leaped into the ditch, and began to climb the enemy's parapet. A moment afterward a flag was planted on the crest of the parapet and held there by two men, while a party of fifteen or twenty (as I should judge) sprang over into the fort, immediately after which those of the enemy who had been firing over the part of the fort opposite to where the entrance was made disappeared, leading me to the belief that they had all been driven by our men from the works. At this time you observed that the assaulting column was weak, and ordered it to be vigorously supported, and also sent an aide to General Carr, with orders to push Benton forward to create a diversion in favor of General Lawler, or, if necessary, to his immediate support. Immediately afterward information was brought to you that the advance of General Smith's division had effected a lodgment and forced the enemy to abandon a portion

of his rifle-pits; but whether the interior of the works had been reached, or merely the ditch, I did not understand. A part of the language of the officer bringing the report was that "our flag is planted on the enemy's works." At 11.46 an officer arrived and said that the fort first referred to was ours, and asked you to order that it should not be further fired upon. You seemed incredulous, and sent me to Colonel Landram, who was in a very advanced position, to ascertain as far as possible the exact state of the case. I found that officer, and, upon delivering my message, received from him, in addition to his confident opinion that the fort was ours, a note from Lieutenant-Colonel Graham, of the Twenty-second Iowa, with the remark that the "note was written inside the fort." This note, the contents of which I do not remember with sufficient accuracy to repeat, I delivered to you, believing fully that the fort was in our entire possession.

3. Although from the great length of the line occupied by the Thirteenth Corps, and the number of forts on the enemy's line, the attack seemed desperate, yet it was my belief that with the aid of re-enforcements the position might be fully carried. On this point General Landram said at 1.50 p. m., "If General Osterhaus, on my left, will press forward, I think the works can soon be cleared."

4. The position occupied by you during the day was a commanding knoll, about 600 yards from the enemy's works, and upon which a battery of 30-pounder Parrotts had been planted. From this point all your line could be seen, except a part of General Smith's command, which formed your extreme right, and which, though near, was partially hidden by the foliage of trees and the extreme unevenness of the ground. Your post of observation owed its entire safety to the slight parapet in front, as many of the enemy's bullets went far beyond us into the woods, and men were continually being wounded all about you. The distance from the above point to General McPherson's headquarters, where General Grant was located, was, in my judgment, 1¼ miles; and although General Grant's position enjoyed some advantages in point of altitude, yet I cannot believe that this or any other place afforded nearly so good a view of the Thirteenth Corps as the one you occupied.

5. Boomer's brigade arrived at 5 o'clock, and was sent to the front. Twenty minutes afterward a regiment arrived, and was held for some time in reserve near headquarters. This regiment may have been part of the Second Brigade, of Quinby's division. The division of General McArthur arrived at 10 a. m. the day following.

6. The dispatches sent from time to time during the day to General Grant were less sanguine of success and less positive in regard to what had been already accomplished than my own opinion, and, as I believed, the opinion of the majority of your officers.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. H. MASON,
Late Captain and Aide-de-Camp.

9.—*Letter of A. A. Blount, late captain Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Artillery.*

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, *September* 5, 1863.

Maj. Gen. J. A. MCCLERNAND:

GENERAL: Your favor of August 23 is received, requesting me to state what I know about any of the colors of the Thirteenth Army Corps having been planted upon the enemy's forts during the assault on May 22 upon the defenses of Vicksburg. In reply, I would state that I saw the colors of the Seventy-seventh Illinois Regiment planted upon the parapet of one of the enemy forts, as also were the colors of the Twenty-second Iowa Regiment, and that the men of the latter regiment occupied one side of the fort, which was divided by a traverse. I heard General Carr give orders to his artillery not to fire upon that fort, as it was in our possession. The regimental flag of the Seventy-seventh Illinois remained upon the parapet of the fort from eight to ten hours, when it was brought away. The national flag of the same regiment could not be brought away, and was covered with earth in the ditch. I saw upon another fort directly in front of my battery the colors of the Eighty-third Ohio Regiment, and I think those of the Sixteenth Iowa. There were colors of other regiments planted upon the extreme slope of the parapet and upon the crest of the glacis of other forts, where our men remained from eight to ten hours. It was the universal opinion of officers and men that had we sufficient force the fort occupied by our men could have been held.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. A. BLOUNT,
Late Captain Seventeenth Ohio Volunteer Artillery.

Other letters in my possession might be added, but they would extend this communication too much. Those already given will abundantly suffice for the purpose in hand. They not only prove all I have denied or affirmed, but they prove more. They prove the promptness

of my assault; that Lawler's and Landram's commands, forming the column of attack on my left center, planted their colors on the enemy's works; moreover, that they were carried inside of one of the main forts; that officers and men of the commands of one or both of them forced their way into the same fort; that observing that the assaulting column was weak, I ordered it to be supported; that immediately afterward information was brought to me that the advance of Smith's division, together with Benton's brigade, of Carr's division, forming another column of attack, had effected another lodgment in the enemy's works, and had also planted our flag on them; that prisoners had been captured and brought out of the fort assaulted by Lawler and Landram; that afterward an officer brought word to me that the same fort was ours, and a request that it should not be further fired upon; that, doubting, I sent a staff officer to verify the fact; that he brought word from Colonel Landram not only that the fort was ours, but a note from Lieutenant-Colonel Graham, of the Twenty-second Iowa, with the remark that "the note was written inside of the fort," and that he was fully persuaded of the truth of the information; that the Twenty-second Iowa advanced against one fort, and the Eleventh Wisconsin against another, and that Colonel Stone and Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap (killed) saw the Twenty-second and Twenty-first Iowa Regiments advance upon two different forts, and the enemy retire from both, and the rifle-pits connecting them, down a hill and toward the city, and talked about it while it was going on. They prove that I could have used more men in making my assault, and with timely re-enforcements of two divisions would have crowned it with success; that my position was much more favorable than General Grant's for seeing what was going on in front of my corps; that my position was near the center of my line, and only 500 or 600 yards from the enemy's works, while General Grant's was about 1½ miles to the right of my position; that my dispatches to General Grant were a qualification rather than an exaggeration of my success, and that the re-enforcements finally ordered by General Grant did not arrive in time, Quinby's division only arriving about 5 o'clock, and too late to be properly formed and successfully applied, and McArthur's not until next day.

As I have already shown, General Grant says that—

> The works entered by him (Sergeant Griffith) from its position could give us no practical advantage, unless others to the right and left of it were carried and held at the same time.

Is not this declaration too broad? Is it not as much as to say that no practical advantage could have been derived from taking any part less than the whole of the enemy's works at once; that the possession of any part, however extended, flanked by other parts held by the enemy, would have been worthless? Is it not as much as to say that the only condition of our success was the impossibility of carrying the whole of the enemy's line, which was much longer than our own, at once, and consequently that our attack must have been by our forces in line, instead of in column, as he directed? And yet, strange enough, he censures me for asking for the co-operation of a simultaneous attack by Sherman and McPherson, according to the terms of his original plan, and without which, by his own admission, "no practical advantage" could have resulted from Sergeant Griffith's partial success. By his own showing, I only asked for what his original plan promised, and what, by his own admission, was necessary to our success.

This of itself is a sufficient refutation of the charge that what I asked

for makes me responsible for the "increase of our mortality list fully 50 per cent.;" but, apart from it, there is another essential fact which goes to the root of this whole matter, which makes General Grant responsible not only for the alleged increase of our mortality list, but for our whole loss, and which truth and justice require should be laid bare. I allude to General Grant's order of May 21 for the assault. That order was issued by him with knowledge of the diminished numbers and exhausted condition of our forces, with knowledge of the roughness of the ground over which they had to pass, and with at least partial knowledge of the great strength of the enemy's position and works, and was deemed not only by me, but by all my general officers who spoke to me upon the subject, as unfortunate and likely to bring disaster upon us rather than the enemy. My answer to these officers was that it was an order, and, if possible, must be executed. They answered, "If we fail it shall not be our fault," and their partial success while others failed, and the carnage of hundreds of their number who fell killed or wounded in gaining that success, conclusively testify that their final failure was not their fault; indeed, General Grant himself testifies to it, as I have already shown, by his admission in another part of his report that "the assault was gallant in the extreme * * * but the enemy's position was too strong, both naturally and artificially, to be taken in that way"—by assault.

Comparing General Grant's report with his dispatches, another discrepancy will appear. He says in his report that the asked-for "diversion was promptly and vigorously made * * * without advancing our position or giving us other advantages," leaving it to be inferred that unmitigated evil was the consequence of the diversion; yet in one of his dispatches he says that "Sherman has gained some successes," and in another, dated 2.30 (two hours and a half after my dispatch stating that I had part possession of two forts), he says, "Sherman is getting on well," proving that the diversion was justifying itself and inspiring him with hope of success.

General Grant speaks of Sherman ordering "a renewal of the assault on his front," and of a "diversion" in my favor both by Sherman and McPherson, leaving the inference that there had been a cessation of the assault by both of them. This cessation was either by General Grant's order or with his consent, or without both; and this brings me to a most grave and important point. If it was by General Grant's order or with his consent, he failed to notify me of the fact, leaving me under the operation of his original order, discriminating against my corps and dooming it to stand in the breach and press the assault alone and unsupported, and, as a forlorn hope, to be destroyed in a desperate effort to accomplish an object that he had abandoned; and, if so, does not the blood of the hundreds of brave men who were thus sacrificed cry aloud against him? If it was without either his order or consent, it was a case of deplorable disobedience, and the same responsibility attaches to him for not advising me of it.

General Grant's account of the battle of Champion's Hill also does me and portions of my command injustice. Emphasizing what himself and others did, and assuming that the field of action was limited by the operations of McPherson's corps and of Hovey's division, of my corps, he indirectly arraigns me for want of zeal, promptitude, and energy. He says he was at Clinton on May 15, and Sherman at Jackson, and that the latter, responsively to his order, promptly moved forward toward Bolton on the morning of the battle; that he (General Grant) ordered McPherson forward at 5.45 a. m., and sent Lieutenant-

Colonel [James H.] Wilson, of his staff, "with verbal instructions to" me "as to the disposition of my forces," and followed himself at an early hour from Clinton; that he found "Hovey's division disposed for the attack," but would "not permit it to be commenced until he could hear from" me, "who was advancing with four divisions;" that "Logan rode up" and told him that if "Hovey could make another dash at the enemy, he could come up from where he then was and capture the greater part of their force," and that, after all this, he saw me with Carr's division to his left, and that "Osterhaus' division soon afterward appeared, with his skirmishers well in advance."

General Grant says all this, but he accidentally or otherwise omits to state what is essential to a proper understanding of the incidents and agencies of that battle. He omits to state that while he was yet behind at Clinton, I selected the lines of advance of the Thirteenth Army Corps, including Blair's division, and moved all the forces forward to the attack except McPherson's; that revoking an order changing my disposition of Blair's forces, he afterward sent a dispatch to me, saying, "Your disposition of Blair's forces is satisfactory; place him to the best advantage," &c.; that on the day before the battle I urged him in a dispatch to move McPherson's corps upon the right of Hovey, to cut off the enemy if I should beat him; that on the morning of the battle, after putting my columns in motion, I hastened to General McPherson's headquarters, in my rear, before he had risen, and urged him to do the same for the same purpose, and to support Hovey; that the subsequent execution of this movement secured to us many prisoners and a number of cannon.

He omits to state that the enemy's skirmishers and artillery were first encountered on my left by General Smith's division, supported by General Blair's; next by General Osterhaus' division, supported by General Carr's, and next by General Hovey, forming my right, and that I informed him that I had received a dispatch from the latter, dated 9.30 a. m., notifying me that he had found the enemy strongly posted, and believed that his right flank would encounter severe resistance; and that I asked him whether McPherson should not support Hovey, and whether I should bring on a general engagement; that afterward, sending several dispatches, he failed to answer any more directly than by the following dispatch, dated 12.35 p. m.: "As soon as your command is all in hand, throw forward skirmishers and feel the enemy, and attack him in force if an opportunity occurs, and I will see that Hovey and McPherson fully co-operate," as though Hovey had not been hotly and desperately engaged since 11 a. m.

He also fails to state that upon the receipt of this dispatch I immediately ordered my center and left to "attack the enemy vigorously and press for victory;" that he allowed Hovey's division to be forced back twice or thrice with great loss from the ground gained, although, as was credibly reported, there was a brigade or division of McPherson's corps unengaged and within easy supporting distance. Moreover, that he sent me several dispatches leading me to the belief that the enemy was in greatest force in front of my center and left, and warning me to guard against letting him gain the rear of that part of my line; and that after or about the time the enemy gave way on the right, Garrard's brigade, leading my right center, was so formidably opposed as to need the support of Benton's and Lindsey's, leaving my left center to be supported by Lawler's brigade, forming a reserve.

He omits all these things, and, in fine, to notice the fact that an early official dispatch sent by him to Washington giving an account of the battle was so unjust even to Hovey's division as to cause Hovey to

make it the subject of a communication to me complaining of it, and me to concur in it and send it to General Grant.

My position during the battle was with my center, composed of Osterhaus' and Carr's divisions, and during its progress, when I ordered Osterhaus to push forward and make a diversion in favor of Hovey, he sent me word that his column was as much advanced as Hovey's, was contending with great difficulties, and was doing all it could do. General Grant coming up and finding Hovey's division forming for the attack, remained on the right.

In noticing the battle of Black River Bridge, General Grant also omits the fact that he did not come up until after I had disposed my forces and brought them into action. In noticing the battle of Port Gibson, he says, "Early on the morning of May 1, I went out * * * and found McClernand and his corps engaging the enemy about 4 miles from Port Gibson." It might be inferred from this statement that General Grant early arrived on the field, yet the truth is I neither saw nor heard of his being on the field until after I had made the dispositions for the battle, and had driven the enemy from his first position on my right, and captured several pieces of cannon and a number of prisoners, and had disabled two of the enemy's guns on my left. General Grant came up after this, and, riding together to Hovey's position, we were greeted by the hurrahs of his men.

Again he says:

> McClernand, who was with the right in person, sent repeated messages to me before the arrival of Logan to send Logan's and Quinby's divisions, of McPherson's corps, to him. I had been on that as well as other parts of the field, and could not see how they could be used there to advantage. However, as soon as the advance of McPherson's corps (Logan's division) arrived, I sent one brigade to McClernand, on the right, and sent one brigade, Brig. Gen. J. E. Smith commanding, to the left, to the assistance of Osterhaus. By the judicious disposition of this brigade, under the immediate supervision of McPherson and Logan, a position was soon obtained giving us an advantage which soon drove the enemy from that part of the field, to make no further stand south of Bayou Pierre.

If I sent repeated messages to General Grant to send forward re-enforcements, it was because my early and intimate knowledge of what was going on justified it, and General Grant, notwithstanding his opinion to the contrary, sent re-enforcements, and Stevenson's brigade, of Logan's division, was accordingly applied to strengthen my center, and did good service. If General Grant thought it was unnecessary, why did he send it? In doing so, he impeaches his own firmness and self-reliance. By his own admission, Smith's brigade, of the same division, was profitably applied on my left. Indeed, of what avail are troops unless they are used to forestall the chances of battle; to insure success against all vicissitudes; to cast the balance decisively and finally at a critical moment? All the great masters inculcate this as a fundamental principle, as a condition of success, as the characteristic of a safe commander. My purpose was to make short, sure, and conclusive work of a contest that was to open or close the door to the passage of the Bayou Pierre and the road to Vicksburg. Unless General Grant held contrary views, and was unwilling that others should share with my troops the losses and sufferings of battle, he could not have consistently objected. That Smith's brigade did good service I doubt not. I have already borne testimony to that fact in my official report; but how "soon" he "drove the enemy" from my left front may be uncertain, as quite late in the evening General Grant sent an order detaching Benton's brigade from my right wing to go to the left—an order, it is true, that was revoked before the brigade reached its destination.

Further, whether it was alone "by the judicious disposition made of this brigade under the immediate supervision of McPherson and Logan," which by consequence "drove the enemy from that part of the field," is a controverted question; for General Osterhaus' report claims that his suggestions and forces had something, nay, much to do with it, and I presume Colonel [James] Keigwin, Forty-ninth Indiana, who is reported to have borne himself gallantly in that part of the field, also claims to have had something to do with it. The truth is, in all these battles and their preliminaries I acted, and was left to act, more or less upon my own responsibility. I moved by a forced night march from the vicinity of Bruinsburg to the battle-field of Port Gibson without orders and upon my own responsibility, and fought the battle in considerable part before General Grant came up. My object was to seize the crossings of Bayou Pierre before the enemy could gain intelligence of our approach. I thought the result justified the risk, although I was convinced that if disaster or defeat followed I would be ruined.

The victory of Port Gibson ostensibly indemnified me, although it did not avert from me the censure and injurious implications of General Grant's report, no more than the victory of Arkansas Post averted the written disapprobation of the expedition that led to it; neither did the part borne by me throughout the Mississippi campaign prevent him from removing me from the command of the Thirteenth Army Corps at the moment when the Mississippi River expedition, which I had recommended to the President and Secretary of War near a year before, was about to be crowned with success in the fall of Vicksburg.

With all these facts laid bare, and with a public life of nearly thirty years' duration in civil and military station before the public, I leave my public actions and my character, which is worth more to me than my life, for the impartial judgment of my military superiors and of the country and history.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General.

No. 8.

Report of Lieut. Francis Tunica, Engineer Officer Ninth Division, of operations April 17–May 24.

HDQRS. NINTH DIVISION, THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Big Black River Bridge, Miss., June 1, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit a report of the work executed by me since April 17, 1863.

On April 17, I received orders from you to proceed without delay to the headquarters of this division, and to report in person to Brig. Gen. P. J. Osterhaus for duty.

I reported to this officer on April 18, at Smith's plantation, and on the morning of the 19th marched to New Carthage, La., and established headquarters at James' plantation, on the Mississippi River.

April 20.—I made reconnaissance up to Negro, Mound, and Brushy Bayous to the so-called basin, and placed pickets about 9 miles in circumference.

April 21.—I conducted Lieut. P. C. Hains to the basin, with the view of selecting a proper place for bridging Bayou Vidal, to enable General Hovey's command to cross this bayou. In the evening I made sketch of the result of my explorations for General Osterhaus.

April 22.—Made another exploration with General Osterhaus up Bayou Vidal, some 8 or 9 miles along this bayou, part in flats and part on horseback, with a view of selecting the best place for the intended bridge. We met General Hovey at the basin, who was also in search of a place to bridge this bayou. Selected place for bridge, and in the afternoon moved camp 4 miles south, to Perkins' plantation.

April 23.—Embarked for Grand Gulf. Generals McClernand, Osterhaus, several other officers, and myself went down on the gunboat General Price. Sketched Grand Gulf.

April 24.—Made another sketch of Grand Gulf for the general.

April 25.—I received orders from General Osterhaus to accompany an expedition, under command of Colonel Keigwin, from Perkins' plantation around Lake Saint Joseph to Hard Times Landing, opposite Grand Gulf, Miss. On this expedition I superintended the construction of three bridges, varying in spans of from 80 to 120 feet, over Holt's, Durassett's, and Phelps' Bayous. (See map.) These bridges were made of timber taken from barns in the immediate vicinity of the respective places. Large, dry beams, 50 feet long by 18 inches square, properly connected, were used to bear the flooring, which was also obtained from the side-boarding of the barns. The flooring was again kept in place by so-called stretchers (pieces of timber 6 inches square). Whenever the banks of the streams were too steep, I had them partly excavated and partly filled with rails, of which there was an abundance. When selecting the place for the fourth bridge over Clark's Bayou, on the 27th, I received orders to return to headquarters. After my arrival, I reported to General McClernand, and, upon his suggestion, also to Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, where I had the pleasure of meeting you also.

April 28.—Embarked again for Grand Gulf.

April 29.—The bombardment of Grand Gulf took place. Our division marched 4 miles farther south.

April 30.—Crossed the river to Bruinsburg, and marched toward Port Gibson. A fight ensued about dusk, some 6 miles from Port Gibson, and lasted till 3 a. m. May 1. Early in the morning the fight was resumed, and the battle of Thompson's Hill, 4 miles west of Port Gibson, took place. Sketched and surveyed the battle-field during the action, our division forming the left wing of General McClernand's *corps d'armée*. (See accompanying map.)

May 2.—Marched to Port Gibson. Surveyed the road from battle-field to this place roughly.

May 3.—Marched to Willow Springs.

May 4.—Made reconnaissance with General Osterhaus.

May 5.—Marched toward Black River to within 5 miles south of it on the Utica or Cayuga road, 24 miles northeast of Port Gibson. Met mounted enemy, about 500 strong, and dispersed them.

(See accompanying map of route marched by this division.)

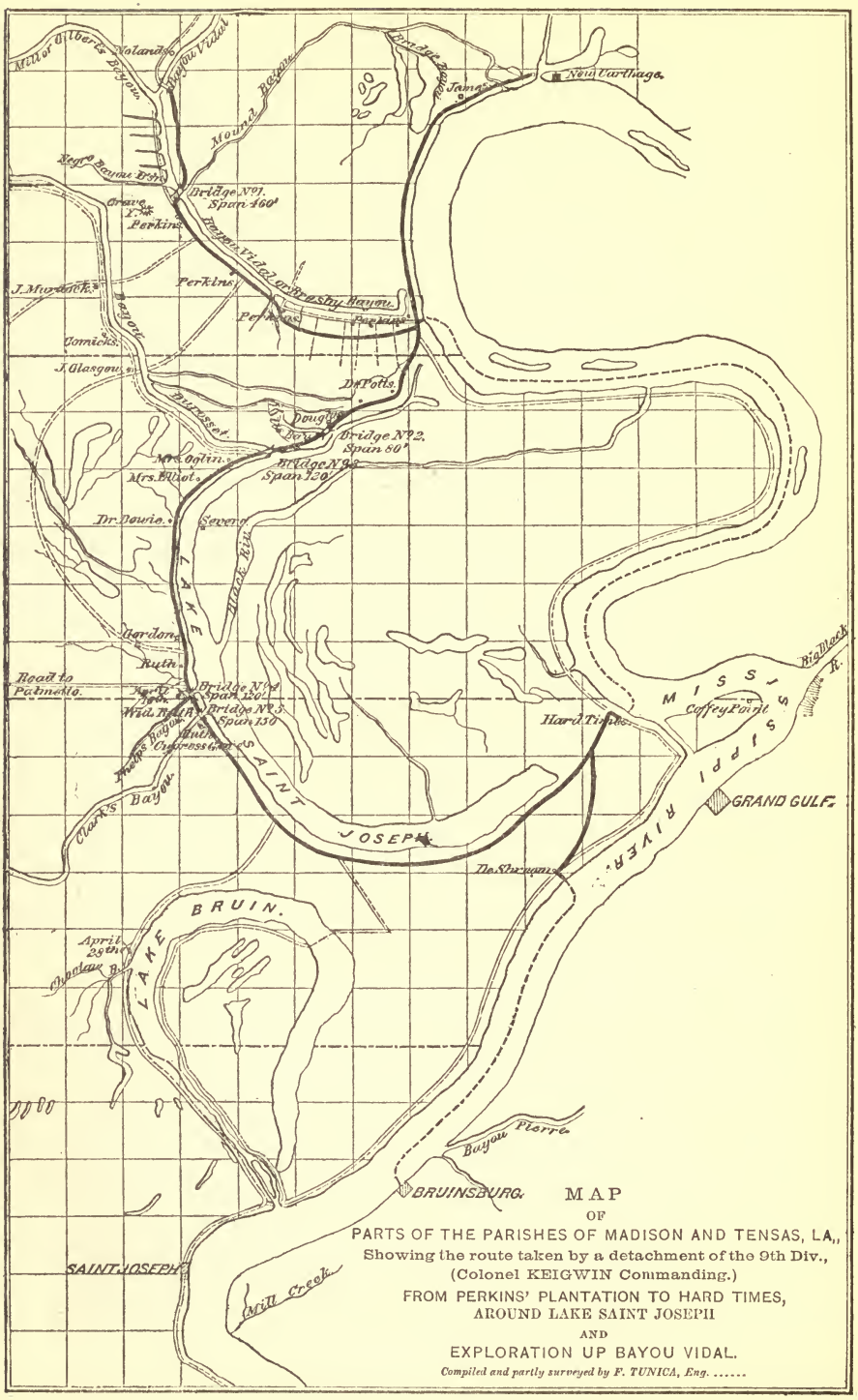
May 6.—Made sketch of this vicinity for the general.

May 7.—Made sketch of southern approaches to Vicksburg, partly from information gathered and partly from own observations, including Jackson, Gallatin, and Canton.

May 8.—Moved headquarters about 2 miles north. Made several copies of the sketch of the vicinity of Vicksburg and also reconnaissance to Big Black River. Enemy on the other side intrenching.

May 9.—Commenced another map. Got sick. Was in bed in the afternoon.

May 10.—Moved forward to Five-Mile Creek.



MAP
OF
PARTS OF THE PARISHES OF MADISON AND TENSAS, LA.,
Showing the route taken by a detachment of the 9th Div.,
(Colonel KEIGWIN Commanding.)
FROM PERKINS' PLANTATION TO HARD TIMES,
AROUND LAKE SAINT JOSEPH
AND
EXPLORATION UP BAYOU VIDAL.
Compiled and partly surveyed by F. TUNICA, Eng. .....

May 11.—Delivered a copy of my map, containing all information of the approaches to Vicksburg, to Lieutenant Hains.

May 12.—Marched toward Edwards. Was very sick in carriage.

May 13.—Moved again toward Raymond. (See map of march.)

May 14.—Arrived at Raymond. Made four sketches for the use of outposts at this place.

May 15.—Moved again toward Bolton and Edwards Station.

May 16.—Battle of Champion's Hill, near Baker's Creek. Owing to my illness on this day, and being obliged to march at night, I was unable to survey the ground of this battle-field.

May 17.—Moved toward Big Black River Bridge. At this place another battle took place. Enemy strongly intrenched. Surveyed and sketched the ground (see accompanying map) soon after the evacuation of the enemy.

May 18.—Marched on to Vicksburg to within 4 miles of the place.

May 19.—Moved a little ahead to about 2 miles of town. Fighting commenced.

May 20.—Continued fighting. No ground gained.

May 21.—Selected place for one of our batteries (Foster's) and made sketch of the enemy's intrenchments, to be assailed by this division, for field use. Rather dangerous sharpshooting at this point.

May 22.—Witnessed grand charge on the enemy's works, and improved sketch of same.

May 23.—Made reconnaissance with some cavalry of by-roads in the vicinity of Mount Alban and Vicksburg.

May 24.—Our division received orders to march back to Big Black River Bridge.

From this date to June 1 my time was employed without intermission in making an addition to the survey of Big Black River Bridge and vicinity; in compiling map of route marched by this division, and in plotting, mapping, and copying the battle-fields of Thompson's Hill (Port Gibson) and Big Black River Bridge.

* * * * * * *

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. TUNICA,

Engineer Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.

Lieut. Col. JAMES H. WILSON,

Asst. Insp. Gen., and First Lieutenant of Engineers.

No. 9.

Message of President Davis, transmitting to the Confederate Congress certain correspondence with General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army.

RICHMOND, VA., *January* 29, 1864.

To the House of Representatives:

In response to your resolution of the 11th ultimo, I herewith transmit, for your information, a copy of my correspondence, together with that of the Secretary of War and of the Adjutant and Inspector General, with General Joseph E. Johnston, during the months of May, June, and July, 1863, concerning his command and the operations in his department.

As the resolution fixes definitely the dates within which the correspondence is desired, I have not deemed it proper to add anything which was prior or subsequent to those dates.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

[Inclosures.]

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 6, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Tullahoma, Tenn.:

How and why was Brigadier-General [W. T.] Martin withdrawn from Mississippi for service with the cavalry of which he was appointed?

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 7, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Brigadier-General Martin was assigned to Van Dorn's cavalry, which was ordered to this department in January. He is not now with Van Dorn, who is in front of Columbia. He commands the cavalry directly between this army and Murfreesborough.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 18, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Headquarters, via Jackson, Miss.:

Have seen your dispatch of this date. The cavalry mentioned cannot reach you before weeks. Other larger and more practiced cavalry I had hoped could be drawn to you from another part of your department, as suggested in telegram some time since. Several of the best infantry regiments, if wanted, might serve as substitute for the cavalry, so much and immediately required. I hope you will have larger accessions to your army, when advancing to attack, by the junction of militia and less organized bodies of citizens. Your presence will effect much to inspire confidence and activity.

The enemy will probably seek to join his fleet at Warrenton, draw the remaining forces from the camp above Young's Point, and prepare for land and water attack on the defenses of Vicksburg. If you could unite with Pemberton and attack the enemy in his retrograde movement toward the river, the chances would be much better. Every effort will be made to aid you, and I desire to know fully your wishes.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

CANTON, MISS., *May* 21, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

There is a division without a major-general, the only officer competent to command it being General W. H. T. Walker;* he is the junior brigadier. Please appoint immediately. Another will be wanted for coming troops. I recommend Brigadier-General [C. M.] Wilcox.* These officers are indispensable.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

* These names in the original dispatch received appeared as General W. H. Taliaferro and Brigadier-General Wilson.

CAMP NEAR CANTON, MISS.,
Via Jackson, May 21, 1863.

The PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of the 18th received, but cannot be deciphered. On account of heavy loss of artillery, we want field pieces, with harness and ammunition. Troops coming from the east are generally without artillery.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 22, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Via Jackson, Miss.:

Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen is appointed major-general, to meet the want specified in your dispatch. General Loring becomes available for assignment to the division you designate. Field batteries and small-arms are on the way to your command.

Signal cipher was employed. If you have the book formerly used by us, will resort to that.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 22, 1863.

General BRAGG, *Tullahoma, Tenn.:*

The vital issue of holding the Mississippi at Vicksburg is dependent on the success of General Johnston in an attack on the investing force. The intelligence from there is discouraging. Can you aid him? If so, and you are without orders from General Johnston, act on your judgment.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 22, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Via Jackson, Miss.:

I do not understand recommendation for promotion of Brigadier-General Wilson in your dispatch of 21st.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 23, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

It was Brig. Gen. Cadmus M. Wilcox that I recommended. Major-General Loring is commanding his own division. Brigadier-General Bowen commands a division of the troops invested in Vicksburg. The division I mentioned has no officer in it competent to command but Brig. Gen. W. H. T. Walker. It must be without a commander until a major-general is appointed for or assigned to it. We have tremendous odds against us. I respectfully urge, therefore, a thorough organization. I ceased to carry the book referred to upon being informed that the copy was not retained in your office. The enemy's gunboats have possession of the Yazoo.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., *May* 23, 1863.

JEFFERSON DAVIS, *President:*

Sent 3,500 with the general; three batteries of artillery and 2,000 cavalry since. Will dispatch 6,000 more immediately. Have no orders. The general did not consider it safe to weaken this point.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 23, 1863.

General BRAXTON BRAGG,
Commanding, &c., Shelbyville, Tenn.:

Your answer is in the spirit of patriotism heretofore manifested by you. The need is sore, but you must not forget your own necessities.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 23, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Via Canton, Miss.:

Your first dispatch was so changed as to present the names of W. H. Taliaferro and Wilson, both supposed to be errors. Bowen was appointed, supposing him to be with Loring. Since your dispatch received to-day, gave order to appoint Walker major-general. Am making every effort to aid you, and hopeful of junction of your forces and defeat of the enemy.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 23, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Troops are coming very slowly. The last of Bragg's arrived on Tuesday. Since then but 300 have arrived and 1,300 are reported this side of Meridian. An officer who left Vicksburg on Tuesday reports that an assault near the Yazoo road had been repelled this time. It is said here to-day that another was made near the Jackson road and also repulsed. This gives me confidence in Pemberton's tenacity. If army can be organized and well commanded, we shall win.

Major-generals in proportion to the number of brigades are necessary. Is Major-General Ewell assigned? I have great confidence in him, and should be glad to have him.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 23, 1863.

The PRESIDENT:

The number of troops I expect to concentrate now in Mississippi is 19,000, exclusive of the garrisons of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The latter I have ordered to join me. Vicksburg is invested. Number, 16,000 or 18,000. Grant's force is estimated at 60,000.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

CANTON, MISS., *May* 24, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

The following, received by courier at Jackson yesterday from General Pemberton, telegraphed to me by Colonel [B. S.] Ewell:

VICKSBURG, MISS., *May* 20.

Enemy assaulted intrenchments yesterday on center and left; were repulsed with heavy loss; our loss small. Enemy's force at least 60,000.

MAY 21.

Enemy kept up heavy artillery fire yesterday; two guns dismounted in center and works injured. Their sharpshooters picked off officers and men all day. Works repaired and guns replaced last night. The vital question is ammunition. The men are encouraged by a report that you are near with a large army, and are in good spirits.

2 *p. m.*—Brisk artillery and musketry fire to-day; three guns dismounted in center; will replace them if possible. Heavy mortar firing from gunboats. The fire of the sharpshooters is severe.

3 *p. m.*—During past two days enemy has gone up river in transports in large force. Where going not known.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 24, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Canton, Miss.:

I concur in your reliance on [belief of] the tenacity with which General Pemberton will defend his position, but the disparity of numbers renders prolonged defense dangerous. I hope you will soon be able to break the investment. Make a junction and carry in munitions. General [G. J.] Rains, who has made valuable inventions, is ordered to you for special service, and will, I think, be useful both on land and river. General Bragg has probably communicated with you. If my strength permitted, I would go to you.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 27, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

A young man sent out by Major-General Stevenson reports that hard fighting has been going on since Tuesday of last week with continued success to us. Our men confident and in fine spirits; but we cannot break the investment without an army. General Cooper tells me that but 13,000 have been ordered. General Pemberton estimates Grant's force at not less than 60,000. When all the re-enforcements arrive shall have but 23,000. Tell me if additional troops can be furnished.

The two cases of cipher are independent of each other.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 28, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Canton, Miss.:

The re-enforcements sent to you exceed by, say, 7,000 the estimate of your dispatch of 27th instant. We have withheld nothing which it was practicable to give. We cannot hope for numerical equality, and time will probably increase the disparity.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 28, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

It is reported that the last infantry coming leave Montgomery to-night. When they arrive shall have about 23,000. Pemberton can be saved only by beating Grant. Unless you can promise more troops, we must try with that number. The odds against us will be very great. Can you not add 7,000? Asked for another major-general—Wilcox, or whoever you may prefer. We want good general officers quickly. I have to organize an army, and collect ammunition, provisions, and transportation.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 30, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Your dispatch of 28th received. The Secretary of War reports the re-enforcement ordered to you as greater than the number you request. Added to the forces you have from Pemberton's army, he states your whole force to be 34,000, exclusive of militia. Bowen and Walker promoted. French and Breckinridge, ordered to you, will, I hope, meet your want of major-generals. If another be required, S. D. Lee is, I think, equal to that grade. Officers in the field here cannot be sent to you without too great delay. The troops sent to you were so fully organized that I suppose you will have little trouble as to organization, unless it be of militia. Colonel [Philip] Stockton can probably answer your requisitions for ammunition. You no doubt will be embarrassed by deficiency of field transportation. The recent robberies have diminished the amount in the country.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

* CANTON, *May* 31, 1863.

The PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of 30th received. By official returns, troops near Canton, including Gist's and Walker's brigades of Beauregard's army, Ector's and McNair's of Bragg's, and Gregg's of Pemberton's, have effectives 9,400.

The troops near Jackson, including Loring's division and Maxey's brigade of Pemberton's troops and Evans' of Beauregard's, have effectives 7,800. Major-General Breckinridge reports to-day 5,800, Brigadier-General [W. H.] Jackson's cavalry, numbering about 1,600 when I was in Tennessee, not included, nor five field batteries, probably 400.

General Cooper informs me that no other re-enforcements have been ordered to this department. Major-General Gardner is invested in Port Hudson.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

[Indorsement.]

Referred to the Secretary of War for reply as to the difference between this statement and the reported number of troops sent to General Johnston and gained by him from General Pemberton.

J. D. [JEFFERSON DAVIS.]

* This letter not transmitted to Confederate Congress.

CANTON, MISS., *June* 1, 1863,
VIA MONTGOMERY, *June* 2.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

The Secretary of War is greatly mistaken in his numbers. By their own returns the troops at my disposal available against Grant are—

Of Pemberton's	9,700
Of Bragg's	8,400
Of Beauregard's	6,000
Total	24,100

Not including a few hundred irregular cavalry, nor Jackson's command, the strength of which I do not know. Bowen and Lee are in Vicksburg, beyond my reach. In the estimate, that garrison is not included. The total of the above, 24,100. These are numbers of effectives.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CANTON, MISS., [*June* 9, 1863,]
VIA MONTGOMERY, *June* 10.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

It has been suggested to me that the troops in this department are very hostile to officers of Northern birth, and that on that account Major-General French's arrival will weaken instead of strengthening us. I beg you to consider that all the general officers of Northern birth are on duty in this department. There is now a want of major-generals [discipline]. It is important to avoid any cause of further discontent.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 11, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

Your dispatch received. Those who suggest that the arrival of General French will produce discontent among the troops because of his Northern birth are not probably aware that he is a citizen of Mississippi; was a wealthy planter until the Yankees robbed him, and, before the Confederate States had an army, was the chief of ordnance and artillery in the force Mississippi raised to maintain her right of secession. As soon as Mississippi could spare him, he was appointed a brigadier-general in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States, and has frequently been before the enemy, where he was the senior officer. If malignity should undermine him, as it has another, you are authorized to notify him of the fact and to relieve him, communicating it to me by telegram. Surprised by your remark as to the general officers of Northern birth, I turned to the register, and find that a large majority of the number are elsewhere than in the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 13, 1863.

General BRAGG, *Tullahoma, Tenn.:*

General Johnston communicates report of re-enforcements to Grant going down the Mississippi. The estimated number 30,000. Have you knowledge whence they were drawn? If from Rosecrans, can you further aid the defense of Vicksburg, indirectly or directly, by advance or detachment?

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 15, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Your dispatch of 12th instant to Secretary of War noted. The order to go to Mississippi did not diminish your authority in Tennessee, both being in the country placed under your command in original assignment.

To what do you refer as information from me restricting your authority to transfer troops because no more could be spared? Officers ordered to you for duty generally are, of course, subject to assignment by you.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 16, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of 15th received. I meant to tell the Secretary of War that I considered the order directing me to command here as limiting my authority to this department, especially when that order was accompanied by War Department orders transferring troops from Tennessee to Mississippi; and, whether commanding there or not, that your reply to my application for more troops that no more could be spared would have made it improper for me to order more from Tennessee. Permit me to repeat that an officer having a task like mine, far above his ability, cannot in addition command other remote departments. No general can command separate armies. I have not yet been able to procure the means of moving these troops; they are too weak to accomplish much. The re-enforcements you mention have joined Grant.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 17, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

I do not find in my letter-book any communication to you containing the expression which you again attribute to me and cite as a restriction on you against withdrawing troops from Tennessee; and have to repeat my inquiry, to what do you refer? Give date of dispatch or letter.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 17, 1863.

General BRAXTON BRAGG,
Commanding at Shelbyville:

GENERAL: General Johnston, in telegrams of 15th and 16th, repeats the expression of his opinion that he cannot under existing circumstances advantageously command both in Mississippi and Tennessee; and, in referring to the reported movement of Burnside's corps to re-enforce Grant, says, "Will not this enable us to invade Kentucky? For this, General Bragg's command should extend over East Tennessee."

The arrangement made of several departments in a geographical district, to the command of which General Johnston was assigned, was intended to secure the fullest co-operation of the troops in those departments, and at the same time to avoid delay by putting the commander of each department in direct correspondence with the War Office. Under this view of the case, the Department of East Tennessee, &c., was created, because of the delay which would attend the transmission of

reports and orders if they must needs pass from Southwestern Virginia to Middle Tennessee and thence to Richmond, Va.

Your telegram of the 15th, suggesting orders for co-operative movement by General Buckner, manifests the defect of the existing arrangement while General Johnston's attention is absorbed by operations in Mississippi. I would be glad to have from you such suggestions as you may please to make in relation to the proper remedy for the existing evil. Your command could be extended to embrace that of General Buckner, by extending the limits of the Department of the Tennessee.

You will know better than myself how far the means of communication and your own leisure would permit you to direct the operations, especially in the eastern portion of General Buckner's department. You can also judge better than myself how far co-operation can be relied upon without the exercise of other command than that which arises after the junction of forces in camps, marches, &c. There are no doubt many conditions which do not now occur to me, but which experience has brought to your attention, and I will be glad to have a full expression of your views, being happily fully aware that your wish can in nowise differ from my own—the success of our cause in the unequal struggle in which we are engaged.

Very respectfully and truly, yours,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 20, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

I much regret the carelessness of my reply of the 16th to your telegram of the 15th. In my dispatch of the 12th to the Secretary of War, I refer to words "we have withheld nothing which it was practicable to give" in your telegram of May 28, and to the telegram of June 5,* except the last sentence. I consider "Executive" as including Secretary of War.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 25, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Telegram from Governor Pettus informs me of conference with you. Commodore [Samuel] Barron will transfer the funds to you, to be applied by you for the purpose indicated—in the defense of Western rivers. You will exercise discretionary power as to manner and objects.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS.,
Via Montgomery, June 28, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

I have received what you directed Commodore Barron to give me, but since learning particulars of the scheme with which he was connected have no hope now of [the purchase of Helena]. The third object seems to me feasible, and agents have been dispatched. [It is the destruction of transports.] I shall probably not require a tenth part of the money.†

J. E. JOHNSTON.

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* From the Secretary of War.

† The words in brackets are in original dispatch, but were omitted in copy as sent to the Confederate Congress.

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 30, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

After full examination of all the correspondence between you and myself and the War Office, including the dispatches referred to in your telegram of the 20th instant, I am still at a loss to account for your strange error in stating to the Secretary of War that your right to draw re-enforcements from Bragg's army had been restricted by the Executive or that your command over the Army of Tennessee had been withdrawn.

In compliance with your request, I am engaged in correspondence with General Bragg on the subject of making such new arrangements as shall relieve you hereafter of the command of his department. Your suggestion to extend Bragg's command over East Tennessee is likewise the subject of correspondence, and your recommendation to attempt a movement in Kentucky has been approved, and every effort will be made to carry into effect that as well as any other practicable movement to aid you.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 2, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

I have this day sent a dispatch to General E. K. Smith and to your care. Please send copies of the dispatch to General Smith by several reliable couriers, going at different times, so as to insure its speedy delivery.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

HEADQUARTERS CANEY CREEK, MADISON COUNTY,
VIA JACKSON, *July* 4, 1863.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

Your dispatch of the 2d instant received, but none of it can be deciphered. Please repeat.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

CANEY CREEK CAMP, *July* 5, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of June 30 received. I considered my assignment to the immediate command in Mississippi as giving me a new position and limiting my authority to this department. The orders of the War Department transferring three separate bodies of troops from General Bragg's army to this, two of them without my knowledge and all of them without consulting me, would have convinced me had I doubted. These orders of the War Department expressed its judgment of the number of troops to be transferred from Tennessee. I could no more control this judgment by increasing the number than by forbidding the transfer. I regret very much that an impression which seemed to me to be natural should be regarded by you as a strange error. I thank Your Excellency for your approval of the several recommendations you mention.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 7, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War:

Vicksburg capitulated on the 4th instant. Garrison was paroled and are to be returned to our lines, the officers retaining their side-arms and personal baggage. This intelligence was brought by an officer who left the place on Sunday, the 5th. In consequence, I am falling back from the Big Black River to Jackson.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 8, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Your dispatch of 5th instant received. The mistakes it contains will be noticed by letter. Your dispatch of 7th instant, to Secretary of War, announcing the disastrous termination of the siege of Vicksburg, received same day. Painfully anxious as to the result, I have remained without information from you as to any plans proposed or attempted to raise the siege. Equally uninformed as to your plans in relation to Port Hudson, I have to request such information in relation thereto as the Government has a right to expect from one of its commanding generals in the field.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 9, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of to-day * received. I have never meant to fail in the duty of reporting to the Executive whatever might interest it in my command. I informed the Secretary of War that my force was much too weak to attempt to raise the siege of Vicksburg, and that to attempt to relieve Port Hudson would be to give up Mississippi, as it would involve the loss of this point, and that the want of adequate means of transportation kept me inactive until the end of June. I then moved toward Vicksburg to attempt to extricate the garrison, but could not devise a plan until after reconnoitering, for which I was too late. Without General Pemberton's co-operation, any attempt must have resulted in disaster. The slowness and difficulty of communication rendered co-operation next to impossible.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 9, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

If it be true that General Taylor has joined General Gardner and routed Banks, you will endeavor to draw heavy re-enforcements from that army and delay a general engagement until your junction is effected. Thus it is to be hoped the enemy may yet be crushed and the late disaster be repaired.

Send by telegraph a list of the general and staff officers who have come out on parole from Vicksburg, so that they may be exchanged imme-

* Dated Richmond, July 8, 1863.

diately. As soon as practicable let the lists of regiments and other organizations be forwarded for same purpose. General Rains should now fully apply his invention.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 9, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

The enemy is advancing in two columns on Jackson; now about 4 miles distant. I shall endeavor to hold the place, as the possession of Mississippi depends on it. His force is about double ours.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 10, 1863.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

Your dispatch of yesterday received. No report of Taylor's junction with Gardner has reached me, as it must have done if true, as we have 1,200 cavalry in that vicinity. I have nothing official from Vicksburg. Maj. Jacob Thompson, of General Pemberton's staff, gives me the following list: Lieutenant-General Pemberton, Major-Generals Stevenson, Forney, M. L. Smith, and Bowen; Brigadier-Generals Barton, Lee, Cumming, Moore, Hébert, Baldwin, Vaughn, Shoup; Colonels Reynolds, Waul, and Cockrell, commanders of brigades; also Brigadier-General [John V.] Harris, of Mississippi militia.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 11, 1863.

The PRESIDENT:

Under General Pemberton's orders, a line of rifle-pits was constructed from the Canton road, at Colonel Withers' house, passing a few hundred yards from the railroad depot, and going to the New Orleans Railroad, 1,000 yards south. It is very defective—cannot stand siege—but improves a bad position against assault. I thought want of water would compel this; but the enemy has made no attempt, but skirmished all day yesterday. Should he not assault, we must attack him or leave the place. Prisoners say there are Ord's and Sherman's corps and three other divisions. Their right is near Raymond road; their left on Pearl River, opposite Insane Asylum. Our men are deserting in large numbers by the fords on Pearl River.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 11, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Dispatch of this day received and remarks on defects of intrenched line noted. Though late to attempt improvement, every effort should be made to strengthen the line of defense, and compel the enemy to assault. Am deeply distressed at report of desertions. Cannot the Governor aid you to check them by employing citizens as guards at the fords? Beauregard and Bragg are both threatened. The former now engaged with the enemy. We are entitled to discharge of the paroled prisoners, and the War Department will spare no effort to promptly secure it. The importance of your position is apparent, and you will not fail to employ

all available means to insure success. I have too little knowledge of your circumstances to be more definite, and have exhausted my power to aid you.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 12, 1863.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

Your dispatch of 11th received. A heavy cannonade this morning for two hours from batteries east of the Canton and south of the Clinton road. The enemy's rifles reached all parts of the town, showing the weakness of the position and untenableness against a powerful artillery. Breckinridge's front, south of the town, was assaulted this morning, but not vigorously. A party of skirmishers of the First, Third, and Fourth Florida, Forty-seventh Georgia, and Cobb's battery took the enemy's flank, and captured 200 prisoners and colors of the Twenty-eighth, Forty-first, and Fifty-third Illinois Regiments. Heavy skirmishing all day yesterday.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 12, 1863.
(Received Richmond, Va., July 13.)

His Excellency President DAVIS:

I have just learned from Colonel [John L.] Logan that Port Hudson capitulated at 6 a. m. on the 9th instant. Terms not given.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 13, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Nothing from you since Saturday. What is the state of affairs?

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 13, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of 11th received. The Governor cannot help us. Under our joint call, but 176 men have been obtained. I think Grant will keep the Vicksburg prisoners until operations here are ended. He may be strongly re-enforced from Port Hudson. If the position and works were not bad, want of stores (which could not be collected) would make it impossible to stand siege. If the enemy will not attack, we must, or at the last moment withdraw. We cannot attack seriously without risking the army; but it is difficult to yield this vital point without a struggle. On afternoon of 11th, the enemy extended his right to Pearl River.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 13, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Colonel [C. A.] Fuller has just arrived from Vicksburg. The Federals issued 31,000 rations to the garrison after the siege. There were 18,000 men fit for duty in the trenches the day of the surrender. About 6,000 sick and wounded in hospitals. Losses killed and wounded during the

siege supposed to be 2,500. General Green the only general officer killed. The garrison left Vicksburg on the 11th, and will reach a point 10 miles east of Brandon on Wednesday, the 15th. Colonel Fuller thinks the troops are much demoralized, and a large proportion of the men will straggle. The cause is their objection to going to a paroled camp. They ask a furlough of thirty days, which General Pemberton recommends. Subsisting these men will be attended with serious difficulties.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 14, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Your dispatch of yesterday received. If lists of the paroled prisoners, as heretofore directed, be promptly furnished, there will be no need to detain the men in a paroled camp, as we shall insist on immediate discharge, and give to them an opportunity again to serve their country.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 14, 1863.
(Received Richmond, Va., July 15.)

His Excellency President DAVIS:

We learn from Vicksburg that a large force lately left that place to turn us on the north. This will compel us to abandon Jackson. The troops before us have been intrenching and erecting batteries since their arrival.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Richmond, July 15, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, C. S. Army:

GENERAL: [I. *] Your dispatch of the 5th instant, stating that you "considered" your "assignment to the immediate command in Mississippi" as giving you a "new position," and as "limiting your authority," being a repetition of a statement which you were informed was a grave error, and being persisted in after your failure to point out, when requested, the letter or dispatch justifying you in such a conclusion, rendered it necessary, as you were informed in my dispatch of 8th instant, that I should make a more extended reply than could be given in a telegram. That there may be no possible room for further mistake in this matter, I am compelled to recapitulate the substance of all orders and instructions given to you so far as they bear on this question.

[II.] On the 24th November last you were assigned, by Special Orders, No. 275, to a defined geographical command. The description included a portion of Western North Carolina and Northern Georgia, the States of Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, and that part of the State of Louisiana east of the Mississippi River. The order concluded in the following language:

24th November, 1862

General Johnston will, for the purpose of correspondence and reports, establish his headquarters at Chattanooga, or such other place as in his judgment will best secure communication with the troops within the limits of his command, and will repair in person to any part of said command whenever his presence may for the time be necessary or desirable.

* The paragraphs were numbered by General Johnston.

[III.] This command by its terms embraced the armies under command of General Bragg in Tennessee, of General Pemberton at Vicksburg, as well as those at Port Hudson, Mobile, and the forces in East Tennessee.

[IV.] This general order has never been changed nor modified so as to affect your command in a single particular, nor has your control over it been interfered with. I have, as commander-in-chief, given you some orders, which will be hereafter noticed; not one of them, however, indicating in any manner that the general control confided to you was restricted or impaired.

[V.] You exercised this command by visiting in person the armies at Murfreesborough, Vicksburg, Mobile, and elsewhere, and on the 22d January I wrote you, directing that you should repair in person to the army at Tullahoma, on account of a reported want of harmony and confidence between General Bragg and his officers and troops. This letter closed with the following passage:

As that army is part of your command, no order will be necessary to give you authority there, as, whether present or absent, you have a right to direct its operations and do whatever else belongs to the general commanding. 22d January, 1863.

[VI.] Language cannot be plainer than this; and although the different armies in your geographical district were ordered to report directly to Richmond as well as to yourself, this was done solely to avoid the evil that would result from reporting through you when your headquarters might be, and it was expected frequently would be, so located as to create delays injurious to the public interest.

[VII.] While at Tullahoma you did not hesitate to order troops from General Pemberton's army; and, learning that you had ordered the division of cavalry from Northern Mississippi to Tennessee, I telegraphed you that this order left Mississippi exposed to cavalry raids without means of checking them. You did not change your orders, and although I thought them injudicious, I refrained from exercising my authority in deference to your views.

[VIII.] When I learned that prejudice and malignity had so undermined the confidence of the troops at Vicksburg in their commander as to threaten disaster, I deemed the circumstances such as to present the case foreseen in Special Orders, No. 275, that you should—

repair in person to any part of said command whenever your presence may for the time be necessary or desirable.

[IX.] You were therefore ordered on 9th May to—

proceed at once to Mississippi and take chief command of the forces, giving to those in the field as far as practicable the encouragement and benefit of your personal direction. 9th May, 1863.

[X.] Some details were added about re-enforcements, but not a word affecting in the remotest degree your authority to command your geographical district.

[XI.] On the 4th June you telegraphed to the Secretary of War, in response to his inquiry, saying: 4th June, 1863.

My only plan is to relieve Vicksburg. My force is far too small for the purpose. Tell me if you can increase it and how much.

[XII.] To which he answered on the 5th: 5th June, 1863.

I regret inability to promise more troops, as we have drained resources even to the danger of several points. You know best concerning General Bragg's army, but I fear to withdraw more. We are too far outnumbered in Virginia to spare any, &c.

[XIII.] This dispatch shows that up to the 5th June, the War Office

had no knowledge of any impression on your part that you had ceased to control Bragg's army, but, on the contrary, you were clearly informed that you were considered the proper person to withdraw troops from it, if you deemed it judicious.

8th June, 1863. [XIV.] On the 8th June the Secretary was more explicit, if possible. He said:

Do you advise more re-enforcements from General Bragg? You, as commandant of the department, have power so to order, if you, in view of the whole case, so determine.

[XV.] On the 10th June you answered that it was for the Government to determine what department could furnish the re-enforcements; that you could not know how General Bragg's wants compared with yours, and that the Government could make the comparison.

[XVI.] Your statement that the Government in Richmond was better able to judge of the relative necessities of the armies under your command than you were, and the further statement that you could not know how General Bragg's wants compared with yours, were considered extraordinary, but as they were accompanied by the remark that the Secretary's dispatch had been imperfectly deciphered, no observation was made on them till the receipt of your telegram to the Secretary, of the 12th instant, stating:

12th June, 1863. I have not considered myself commanding in Tennessee since assignment here, and should not have felt authorized to take troops from that department after having been informed by the Executive that no more could be spared.

[XVII.] My surprise at these two statements was extreme. You had never been "assigned" to the Mississippi command. You went there under the circumstances and orders already quoted, and no justification whatever is perceived for your abandonment of your duties as commanding general of the geographical district to which you were assigned. Orders as explicit as those under which you were sent to the west, and under which you continued to act up to the 9th May, when you were directed to repair in person to Mississippi, can only be impaired or set aside by subsequent orders equally explicit, and your announcement that you had ceased to consider yourself charged with the control of affairs in Tennessee because ordered to repair in person to Mississippi, both places being within the command to which you were assigned, was too grave to be overlooked, and, when to this was added the assertion that you should not have felt authorized to draw troops from that department (Tennessee) "after being informed by the Executive that no more could be spared," I was unable to account for your language, being entirely confident that I had never given you any such information.

[XVIII.] I shall now proceed to separate your two statements, and begin with that which relates to your "not considering" yourself commanding in Tennessee since assignment "here," *i. e.*, in Mississippi.

15th June, 1863. [XIX.] When you received my telegram of 15th June, informing you "that the order to go to Mississippi did not diminish your authority in Tennessee, both being in the country placed under your command in original assignment," accompanied by an inquiry about the information said to have been derived from

16th June, 1863. me restricting your authority to transfer troops, your answer on the 16th June was:

I meant to tell the Secretary of War that I considered the order directing me to command here as limiting my authority to this department, especially when that order was accompanied by War Department orders transferring troops from Tennessee to Mississippi.

[XX.] This is in substance a repetition of the previous statement, without any reason being given for it. The fact of orders being sent to you to transfer some of the troops in your department from one point to another to which you were proceeding in person could give no possible ground for your "considering" that Special Orders, No. 275, was rescinded or modified. Your command of your geographical district did not make you independent of my orders as your superior officer, and when you were directed by me to take troops with you to Mississippi, your control over the district to which you were assigned was in no way involved; but the statement that troops were transferred from Tennessee to Mississippi by order of the War Department when you were directed to repair to the latter State gives but half the fact, for although you were ordered to take with you 3,000 good troops, you were told to replace them by a greater number then on their way to Mississippi, and whom you were requested to divert to Tennessee, the purpose being to hasten re-enforcements to Pemberton without weakening Bragg. This was in deference to your own opinion that Bragg could not be safely weakened; nay, that he ought even to be re-enforced at Pemberton's expense; for you had just ordered troops from Pemberton's command to re-enforce Bragg. I differed in opinion from you, and thought Vicksburg far more exposed to danger than Bragg, and was urging forward re-enforcements to that point both from Carolina and Virginia before you were directed to assume command in person in Mississippi.

[XXI.] I find nothing, then, either in your dispatch of 16th June or in any subsequent communication from you, giving a justification for your saying that you had not considered yourself commanding in Tennessee since assignment here (*i. e.*, in Mississippi). Your dispatch of the 5th instant is again a substantial repetition of the same statement without a word of reason to justify it. You say, "I considered my assignment to the immediate command in Mississippi as giving me a new position and limiting my authority to this department." I have characterized this as a grave error, and in view of all the facts, cannot otherwise regard it. I must add that a review of your correspondence shows a constant desire on your part, beginning early in January, that I should change the order placing Tennessee and Mississippi in one command under your direction, and a constant indication on my part whenever I wrote on the subject that in my judgment the public service required that the two armies should be subject to your control.

[XXII.] I now proceed to your second statement in your telegram of 12th* June, that you "should not have felt authorized to take troops from that department (Tennessee) after having been informed by the Executive that no more could be spared."

[XXIII.] To my inquiry for the basis of this statement, you answered on the 16th by what was in substance a reiteration of it.

[XXIV.] I again requested on the 17th that you should refer by date to any such communication as that alleged by you.

[XXV.] You answered on 20th June, apologized for carelessness in your first reply, and referred me to a passage from my telegram to you on the 28th May and to one from the Secretary of War of 5th June, and then informed me that you considered "Executive" as including Secretary of War.

[XXVI.] Your telegram of 12th June was addressed to the Secretary of War in the second person. It begins, "Your dispatch," and then speaks of the Executive in the third person, and on reading it, it

* To Secretary of War.

was not supposed that the word "Executive" referred to any one but myself; but, of course, in a matter like this, your own explanation of your meaning is conclusive.

[XXVII.] The telegram of the Secretary of War of 5th June, followed by that of 8th June, conveyed unmistakably the very reverse of the meaning you attributed to them, and your reference to them as supporting your position is unintelligible. I revert, therefore, to my telegram of 28th May. That telegram was in answer to one from you in which you stated that, on the arrival of certain re-enforcements then on the way, you would have about 23,000; that Pemberton could be saved only by beating Grant, and you added:

> Unless you can promise more troops, we must try with that number. The odds against us will be very great. Can you add 7,000?

My reply was:

> The re-enforcements sent to you exceed by, say, 7,000 the estimate of your dispatch of 27th instant. We have withheld nothing which it was practicable to give you. We cannot hope for numerical equality, and time will probably increase the disparity.

[XXVIII.] It is on this language that you rely to support a statement that I informed you no more troops could be spared from Tennessee, and as restricting your right to draw troops from that department. It bears no such construction. The re-enforcements sent to you (with an exception presently to be noticed) were from points outside of your department. You had, in telegrams of 1st, 2d,* 7th May, and others, made repeated applications to have troops withdrawn from other departments to your aid. You were informed that we would give all the aid we possibly could. Of your right to order any change made in the distribution of troops in your own district no doubt had ever been suggested by yourself nor could occur to your superiors here, for they had given you the authority.

[XXIX.] The re-enforcements which went with you from Tennessee were (as already explained, and as was communicated to you at the time) a mere exchange for other troops sent from Virginia.

[XXX.] The troops subsequently sent to you from Bragg were forwarded by him under the following dispatch from me of 22d May:

> The vital issue of holding the Mississippi at Vicksburg is dependent on the success of General Johnston in an attack on the investing force. The intelligence from there is discouraging. Can you aid him? If so, *and you are without orders from General Johnston,* act on your judgment.

[XXXI.] The words that I now underscore suffice to show how thoroughly your right of command of the troops in Tennessee was recognized. I knew from your own orders that you thought it more advisable to draw troops from Mississippi to re-enforce Bragg than to send troops from the latter to Pemberton, and one of the reasons which induced the instruction to you to proceed to Mississippi was the conviction that your views on this point would be changed on arrival in Mississippi. Still, although convinced myself that troops might be spared from Bragg's army without very great danger, and that Vicksburg was, on the contrary, in immediate peril, I was unwilling to overrule your judgment of the distribution of your troops while you were on the spot, and therefore simply left to General Bragg the power to aid you if he could *and if you had not given contrary orders.*

[XXXII.] The cavalry sent you from Tennessee was sent on a similar dispatch from the Secretary of War to General Bragg, informing him

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* Dated May 1; received May 2, 1863.

of your earnest appeal for cavalry, and *asking him if he could spare any.* Your request was for a regiment of cavalry to be sent to you from Georgia. My dispatch of 18th May pointed out to you the delay which a compliance would involve, and suggested that cavalry could be drawn from "another part of your department," as had been previously indicated.

[XXXIII.] In no manner, by no act, by no language either of myself or of the Secretary of War, has your authority to draw troops from one portion of your department to another been withdrawn, restricted, or modified.

[XXXIV.] Now that Vicksburg has disastrously fallen, this subject would present no pressing demand for attention, and its examination would have been postponed to a future period had not your dispatch of the 5th instant, with its persistent repetition of statements which I had informed you were erroneous, and without adducing a single fact to sustain them, induced me to terminate the matter at once by a review of all the facts. The original mistakes in your telegram of 12th June would gladly have been overlooked as accidental if acknowledged when pointed out. The perseverance with which they have been insisted on has not permitted me to pass them by as mere oversights, or, by refraining from an answer, to seem to admit the justice of the statements.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 15, 1863.

President DAVIS:

The enemy will not attack, but has intrenched; is evidently making a siege which we cannot resist. It would be madness to attack him. In the beginning it might have been done, but I thought then that want of water would compel him to attack us. It is reported by some of its officers who were here yesterday and by some gentlemen of Brandon that the Vicksburg garrison is diminishingly rapidly. Incessant but slight cannonading kept up. Our loss in killed and wounded about 350. The remainder of the army under Grant at Vicksburg is beyond doubt on its way to this place.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 16, 1863.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

The enemy being strongly re-enforced, and able when he pleases to cut us off, I shall abandon this place, which it is impossible for us to hold.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 16, 1863.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

Your dispatch of yesterday* received. Lieutenant-General Pemberton has been instructed to send an officer to Richmond with lists of paroled prisoners. Reports indicate that few of them will re-enter the service very soon, as they are rapidly dispersing. Little firing yesterday; none this morning. I sent a body of cavalry to the enemy's rear afternoon of 14th, but have not heard from it.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

* Dated Richmond, July 14, 1863. See p. 202.

BRANDON, MISS., *July* 17, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Jackson was abandoned last night. The troops are now moving through this place to encamp 3 miles to the east. Those officers who have seen the Vicksburg troops think that they cannot be kept together. General Pemberton thinks the best policy is to furlough them by regiments.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 18, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Brandon, Miss.:*

Your dispatch of yesterday received, informing me of your retreat from Jackson toward the east. I desire to know your ulterior purpose. The enemy may not pursue, but move up the Central road, lay waste the rich country toward Tennessee, and co-operate afterward with Rosecrans. Another column, Eastern Louisiana being abandoned, may be sent from New Orleans to attack Mobile on the land side.

The recommendation to furlough the paroled troops from Vicksburg offers a hard alternative under the pressure of our present condition.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

JULY 19, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Your dispatch of yesterday cannot be deciphered. My purpose is to hold as much of the country as I can, and to retire farther only when compelled to do so. Should the enemy cross Pearl River, I will oppose his advance, and, unless you forbid it, order General Bragg to join me to give battle. Prisoners all say that Mobile is to be attacked. I will re-enforce the garrison if necessary, not expecting Sherman to move through Mississippi at present. He must repair railroads first, and our cavalry can break them behind him. In the mean time I will try to restore discipline.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 21, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Near Morton, Miss.:*

Return to me the cipher dispatch of 18th, to enable me to learn why my cipher dispatches to you are illegible.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

CAMP NEAR MORTON, MISS., *July* 22, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

As it is of the highest importance that you should have the best intel ligence of the condition of military affairs in Mississippi, I have desired Brigadier-General [W. S.] Featherston to go to Richmond to give you information, which he, an eminent Mississippian and distinguished soldier, can communicate better than any other officer of this army. In selecting General Featherston for this service. I have been influenced as much by my belief of your high opinion of him as by my own.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

MORTON, MISS., *July* 23 [22?], 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Two divisions of the enemy drove our cavalry through Brandon and returned to Jackson next day. Scouts report railroad bridges destroyed by them. Prisoners say that they will attack Mobile next. A paroled prisoner reports to Col. Wirt Adams that a garrison of one corps was left in Jackson, the rest going to Vicksburg. Large quantities of artillery ammunition are being sent from Vicksburg. Said in the army that they are to move via Memphis and Mobile and Ohio road. Desertions continue, especially of Mississippians. I shall visit Mobile in a day or two, Lieutenant-General Hardee being here.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

NEAR MORTON, MISS., *July* 24, 1863.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Brigadier-General [G. B.] Cosby reports that the enemy's rear guard left Jackson yesterday, [moving] toward Vicksburg, and that Col. Tom [H.] Taylor met General Sherman at Edwards Depot, and was told by him that his troops would not stay a day in Vicksburg, but instantly move up the river. Does this indicate re-enforcing Meade? A deserter said yesterday that these troops expect to go to Richmond.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

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* MORTON, MISS., *August* 8, 1863.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I. Your letter of July 15 was handed to me in Mobile on the 28th by Colonel [Frank] Schaller. The want of papers to which it was necessary to refer has prevented me from replying sooner.

II. I respectfully ask Your Excellency to reconsider the several allegations of your letter, and especially to consider whether my misapprehension of the order sending me to Mississippi (my having regarded my assignment to the immediate command in that department as giving me a new position and limiting my authority, an opinion which had no practical results, which affected in no way the exercise of my military functions, and which had been removed before you noticed it) was a serious military offense. It affected my military course in no way, because, while commanding on the spot in Mississippi, I could not direct General Bragg's operations in Tennessee, and because I felt that the question of ordering more troops from Bragg—one of great magnitude, involving at least the temporary loss of Tennessee or Mississippi—ought to be decided by the Government and not by me. This opinion was expressed in my dispatch to the Secretary of War of June 12, in these words:

> To take from Bragg a force which would make this army fit to oppose Grant, would involve yielding Tennessee. It is for the Government to decide between this State and Tennessee.

The idea was thus repeated on the 15th:

> Nor is it for me to judge which it is best to hold—Mississippi or Tennessee; that is for the Government to determine. Without some great blunder by the enemy we cannot hold both.

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* This letter not transmitted by President Davis (see his message to House of Representatives, p. 189), but transmitted by Secretary of War, June 11, 1864 (see p. 237).

Had I received a copy of your orders of May 22, directing General Bragg to send troops from his army to Mississippi, my error would have been corrected then, but it was not sent to me, and I have its evidence for the first time in your letter. The dispatch of the Secretary of War, June 8, received on the 10th, removed my misapprehension.

III. In regard to the repetition and persistence which you impute to me in the first sentence of your letter, I cannot feel that my three brief telegrams, dictated by the respect due from me to you, deserved to be so characterized; the first and second being replies to direct questions in yours of the 15th and 17th, and the third, in reply to yours of June 30, an attempt to say more clearly what had been carelessly expressed in the first. They are so brief as to require scarcely more than a minute for reading, and are respectful in thought and language. You subsequently characterized my misunderstanding the order sending me to Mississippi as a grave error. This error of mine, which was removed by the dispatch from the War Department dated June 8, and which had no effect on my military course, does not seem to me, I must confess, a grave one.

IV. In the seventh paragraph of your letter you write:

> While at Tullahoma you did not hesitate to order troops from General Pemberton's army; and, learning that you had ordered the division of cavalry from Northern Mississippi to Tennessee, I telegraphed you that this order left Mississippi exposed to cavalry raids without means of checking them. You did not change your orders, &c.

The only order I gave sending cavalry from Mississippi to Tennessee was early in January, when I was at Jackson, not Tullahoma. I can find but one telegram received from you on the subject. It is dated April 30, and in these words:

> General Pemberton telegraphs that unless he has more cavalry the approaches to Northern Mississippi are almost unprotected, and that he cannot prevent the cavalry raids.

My reply is of the same date:

> About 3,000 of General Bragg's cavalry beyond the Tennessee are employing about 12,000 Federal troops from Mississippi. General Pemberton has been so informed twice.

The main body of the cavalry of Mississippi was near Grenada in January, unorganized and unemployed, and from the condition of the country it was supposed by the officers and intelligent citizens whom I consulted, including the Governor, that it would be useless in the State until late in the spring. Grant had fallen back toward Memphis, and Sherman and McClernand had been repulsed at Vicksburg, but Bragg's army had been terribly reduced by the engagements near Murfreesborough. I therefore directed Major-General Van Dorn to form about two-thirds of the cavalry near Grenada into a division and to join General Bragg with it. These troops were transferred from a country in which they could not operate and a department not threatened, and in which the enemy had just been repulsed, to one in which they were greatly needed, where we had just suffered a reverse and were in danger of another. These troops and their gallant leader rendered very important services in Tennessee. They had several engagements with the enemy to the advantage and honor of our arms. Without them we could not have held the country which till the latter part of June furnished food for Bragg's army. More than two weeks before Your Excellency's dispatch of April 30, a brigade of cavalry was sent across the Tennessee to aid in the protection of Mississippi, and reports of large re-enforcements to the garrison of Corinth being received, Brigadier-General Forrest was sent

with another on April 23. These two brigades constituted the force referred to in my dispatch of April 30. As soon as the falling back of the Federal Army made it practicable, Colonel [P. D.] Roddey was transferred to Mississippi with about two-thirds of the joint force.

In Paragraph XII you quote the dispatch of the War Department to me of June 5 as follows:

> I regret inability to promise more troops, as we have drained resources even to the danger of several points. You know best concerning General Bragg's army, but I fear to withdraw more. We are too far outnumbered in Virginia to spare any, &c.

The dispatch sent to me reads thus:

> I regret inability to promise more troops. Drained resources to the danger of several points. You know best concerning General Bragg's army, but I fear to withdraw more. We are too far outnumbered in it to spare any. You must rely on what you have and the irregular forces Mississippi can afford, &c.

This is one of the dispatches which gave me the impression that the Executive wished no more troops withdrawn from Tennessee.

V. I did not draw from that telegram the inference which you express in the next paragraph, but understood the words, "You know best concerning General Bragg's army," to refer to the acquaintance with military affairs in Middle Tennessee which I might be supposed to have acquired.

VI. In Paragraph XVII Your Excellency charges me with the abandonment of my duties as commanding general of a geographical district. I respectfully deny the commission of such a military crime. During the month ending June 10, in which I believed myself commanding only the Department of Mississippi, it was not possible for me to direct operations in Tennessee also. It is true that I might have drawn troops from it to Mississippi, but my opinion on that subject was expressed to the War Department in my dispatches of June 12 and 15, as follows:

> To take from Bragg a force which would make this army fit to oppose Grant, would involve yielding Tennessee. It is for the Government to decide between this State and Tennessee. Nor is it for me to judge which it is best to hold—Mississippi or Tennessee; that is for the Government to determine. Without some great blunder by the enemy we cannot hold both.

In Paragraph XX you write:

> This was in deference to your own opinion that Bragg could not be safely weakened; nay, that he ought even to be re-enforced at Pemberton's expense; for you had just ordered troops from Pemberton's command to re-enforce Bragg.

The time alluded to seems to be May 9, as your reference is to the order of that date. The United States Army had then crossed the Mississippi and defeated a large detachment of ours. To have "ordered troops from Pemberton's command to re-enforce Bragg" at that time would have been evidence of the grossest incapacity. Your Excellency will therefore pardon me, I am sure, for denying the existence of such evidence. I have ordered troops from Mississippi to Tennessee but twice. On both occasions the condition of affairs was very different from that existing at the time referred to. The first order was that given to the cavalry early in January. It was explained in Paragraph IV. The second was given about April 13, when Lieutenant-General Pemberton informed me that Grant had abandoned operations against Vicksburg and was moving his army up the river—he supposed to join Rosecrans. He had no enemy before him. Vicksburg was no longer threatened. Bragg, on the other hand, could not fully cover the country which fed his troops. I therefore directed a force equal to that sent from Bragg to Pemberton in December last, under your instructions, to be sent from

Mississippi to Tennessee, intending, should Lieutenant-General Pemberton's surmise prove correct, to continue to draw troops from his army. But in a few days Lieutenant-General Pemberton reported the United States Army returning, and the troops on the way to Bragg (none of which had arrived) were ordered back. This was about April 19, when the Federal Army was on the Mississippi in transports, or on the west side of the river, and Pemberton's condition far less unfavorable than it was at the time to which you refer, when the enemy had crossed the river and driven back his advanced troops.

In Paragraph XXXI, in explaining your orders to General Bragg of May 22, you say:

> I knew from your own orders that you thought it more advisable to draw troops from Mississippi to re-enforce Bragg than to send troops from the latter to Pemberton.

I have transferred but two bodies of troops from Mississippi to Tennessee—the first a division of cavalry, the other a division of infantry; the first in January, when McClernand and Sherman had abandoned their siege of Vicksburg and Bragg had not begun to recover from the effects of the battle of Murfreesborough; the second on April 13, when Grant's army had abandoned Vicksburg. I respectfully submit to Your Excellency that these orders do not prove that at a subsequent period—when the relative condition of the two armies was entirely changed, when Pemberton was most threatened, a powerful army having forced the passage of the Mississippi and beaten back his advanced troops—I thought it "more advisable to draw troops from Mississippi to re-enforce Bragg than to send troops from the latter to Pemberton." But my sending back the division of infantry, employing a division of Bragg's cavalry to aid Pemberton in April, transferring a large brigade of cavalry into Mississippi on May 5, and applying for re-enforcements for Pemberton on the 7th, suggesting that the withdrawal of Foster's troops might enable Beauregard to furnish them, prove the contrary.

In Paragraph XXI Your Excellency refers to the constant desire shown in my correspondence, beginning early in January, that you should change the order placing Tennessee and Mississippi in one command under my direction. That desire was founded on the belief that the arrangement was not in accordance with military principles, which require that every army should have its own general, and especially that two armies far apart, having different objects and opposed to enemies having different objects, should not be under one general. I thought these armies too far apart to re-enforce each other on emergencies. Experience has confirmed that opinion. I thought, however, the troops in Arkansas should co-operate with those of Lieutenant-General Pemberton, for both had the same great object—the defense of the Mississippi Valley—and both were opposed to troops having one object—the possession of the Mississippi—and the main force of these troops was operating on this side of the river.

Permit me to say that, after careful consideration, I can find nothing in my three brief telegrams which seems to me to call for the animadversions in your last paragraph. They were written in answer to dispatches of yours; referred to an opinion of mine which had been corrected before your attention was called to it, and had no other object, besides the duty of replying to your dispatches, than to prevent your supposing that the opinion concerning which you questioned me was entirely unfounded; but whether well founded or unfounded, that opinion was a thing of the past when first brought to your notice, and therefore I cannot feel that the having once entertained it is a military offense, or

that the manner in which I attempted to extenuate my misapprehension of the honorable Secretary's telegram of May 9 makes me obnoxious to the imputations of your letter, especially those of the concluding paragraph.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.

P. S.—This letter was prepared at the time of its date, to be transmitted by an officer then going to Richmond. I have just discovered that he did not take it.

[Inclosure.]

CORRESPONDENCE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR WITH GENERAL J. E. JOHNSTON AND THE ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., January 8, 1864.

The PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

SIR: I have the honor to transmit copies of the orders given to, and correspondence with, General Joseph E. Johnston during the months of May, June, and July, 1863, concerning his command and the operations in his department, by this Department, as called for by a resolution of the House of Representatives adopted on December 11 last. Copies of the order assigning General Johnston to command and of those constituting General Bragg's a separate department (with the accompanying correspondence) are also sent in further elucidation of the subject.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

[Sub-Inclosures.]

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. 275. } ADJT. AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Va., November 24, 1862.

* * * * * * *

III. General J. E. Johnston, C. S. Army, is hereby assigned to the following geographical command, to wit: Commencing with the Blue Ridge range of mountains running through the western part of North Carolina, and following the line of said mountains through the northern part of Georgia to the railroad south from Chattanooga; thence by that road to West Point, and down the west or right bank of the Chattahoochee River to the boundary of Alabama and Florida, following that boundary west to the Choctawhatchee River, and down that river to Choctawhatchee Bay (including the waters of that bay) to the Gulf of Mexico. All that portion of country west of said line to the Mississippi River is included in the above command. General Johnston will, for the purpose of correspondence and reports, establish his headquarters at Chattanooga, or such other place as in his judgment will best secure facilities for ready communication with the troops within the limits of his command, and will repair in person to any part of said command whenever his presence may for the time be necessary or desirable.

* * * * * * *

By command of the Secretary of War:

JNO. WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

* Duplicates of dispatches transmitted already printed, pp. 189-212, omitted.

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 1, 1863.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General:

General Pemberton reports from Vicksburg to-day a furious battle has been going on since daylight. General Bowen, commanding, says he is outnumbered terribly. He has about 8,000. Enemy's army can cross at Bruinsburg, below Bayou Pierre. Lieutenant-Colonel [C. R.] Barteau, at Allatoona, telegraphs to him 3,000 enemy crossed Tallahatchee at New Albany yesterday.

General Pemberton calls for heavy re-enforcements. They cannot be sent without giving up Tennessee. Can one or two brigades be sent from the east?

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 1, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

Reports of our scouts in Kentucky indicate invasion of East Tennessee by a strong force under Burnside.

Cannot our troops there be re-enforced from Western Virginia or elsewhere?

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

[Indorsement.]

MAY 2, 1863.

Telegraph this to General Sam. Jones. Add that if in his power to render the aid, he will do so.

He must exercise his judgment in view of the circumstances of the situation and his own forces.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 7, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

Both General Pemberton and General Maury ask for re-enforcements, and need them greatly.

It is reported that General [John G.] Foster's troops have left South Carolina.

Cannot General Beauregard and Major-General [Sam.] Jones spare troops to re-enforce Mississippi and East Tennessee?

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 7, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

I have just received the painful intelligence of the death of the distinguished Major-General Van Dorn, which occurred this morning at Spring Hill.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 9, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

I earnestly recommend to the War Department that General Bragg's command be extended over East Tennessee. It is of great importance.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., May 9, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Tullahoma, Tenn.:

Proceed at once to Mississippi and take chief command of the forces, giving to those in the field, as far as practicable, the encouragement and benefit of your personal direction. Arrange to take for temporary service with you, or to be followed without delay, 3,000 good troops, who will be substituted in General Bragg's army by a large number of prisoners recently returned from the Arkansas Post capture, and reorganized, now on their way to General Pemberton. Stop them at the point most convenient to join General Bragg. You will find re enforcements from General Beauregard to General Pemberton, and more may be expected. Acknowledge receipt.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

TULLAHOMA, TENN., *May* 9, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Your dispatch of this morning received. I shall go immediately, although unfit for field service.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., May 12, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

In addition to the 5,000 men originally ordered from Charleston, about 4,000 more will follow. I fear more cannot be spared to you.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 13, 1863.

JAMES A. SEDDON:

I arrived this evening, finding the enemy's force between this place and General Pemberton, cutting off the communication. I am too late.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

CALHOUN STATION, SEVEN MILES SOUTH OF CANTON,
May 16, 1863—7.30 a. m.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Richmond, Va.:

SIR: I reported to you by telegraph that I learned, on arriving in Jackson on the evening of the 13th, that a Federal army had just placed

itself at Clinton, on the railroad to Vicksburg, 10 miles from Jackson. The brigades of [John] Gregg and [W. H. T.] Walker had engaged this force the day before near Raymond, and arrived in Jackson as I did. Brigadier-General Gregg estimates the force which he met, and a part of which he encountered, at 25,000.

On the following morning it was reported that a large body of Federal troops had encamped at Raymond the night before, and about 9 o'clock the pickets on the roads from Clinton and Raymond reported the enemy approaching and about 4 miles distant. The opposition of our troops delayed the enemy sufficiently to enable the baggage to be withdrawn, and about 1.30 o'clock the troops followed; encamping that night 6½ miles from Jackson, and yesterday here, 10½ miles farther.

A dispatch from Lieutenant-General Pemberton, received yesterday, informed me that he would march on the 15th from Edwards Station to a point 7½ miles west of Raymond.

On leaving Jackson I was compelled to send orders to the troops coming from the east to halt. I have given orders to provide them with field transportation, that they may join me to unite with General Pemberton, but wagons and horses must be brought from a distance. The force with me is about 6,000. General [S. R.] Gist, commanding the halted eastern troops, reported them yesterday morning at 1,500.

I have no information from General Pemberton except of his move to Dillon's with 17,000 men.

I learned at Jackson that a brigade holds Port Hudson. I have no information of the enemy's force except that written above.

My object is to unite all the troops.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.

[Indorsement.]

Read and returned to the Secretary of War. Do not perceive why a junction was not attempted, which would have made our force nearly equal in number to the estimated strength of the enemy, and might have resulted in his total defeat under circumstances which rendered retreat or re-enforcement to him scarcely practicable.

J. D. [JEFFERSON DAVIS.]

—

CALHOUN STATION, MISS.,
May 17, 1863.

General S. COOPER :

I am just moving west to endeavor to join General Pemberton. Brigadier-General [John] Adams has reason to think that his appointment was not confirmed. I hope the apprehension is groundless. He is very valuable. Please inform me.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CAMP, BETWEEN LIVINGSTON AND BROWNSVILLE,
May 18, 1863.

General S. COOPER, *Richmond, Va.:*

I inclose herewith a copy of a letter received last night from Lieutenant-General Pemberton. I have just telegraphed to you the information it contains, and added that a Mr. Shelton, of this neighborhood,

who says that he left General Pemberton's headquarters yesterday, wrote to me last night that our troops had fallen back to Vicksburg. A gentleman who said that he was just from Bovina was here at 10.30 last night and made the same statement. I was preparing to join General Pemberton personally when this information came. It is now impracticable and would be useless.

I shall endeavor, after collecting all available troops, to hold as much of the country as possible.

Besides the garrison of Port Hudson, the strength of which I do not know, there are now about 11,000 infantry in the department; 6,000 or 7,000 more may soon be expected; therefore, to make it possible to relieve Vicksburg, very large re-enforcements will be necessary. I hope that the Government will send without delay all that can possibly be spared from other points.

I suppose that General Pemberton's force before the battle, including that in Vicksburg, was near 28,000. He has provisions for sixty days. If, as he says, Haynes' Bluff is untenable, the enemy, using navigation of the Yazoo, can soon reduce him by siege. Whatever efforts the Government may propose to make must, therefore, be carried into immediate effect.

Most respectfully, &c.,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

[Sub-Inclosure.]

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Bovina, Miss., May 17, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Calhoun, Miss.:

GENERAL: I notified you, on the morning of the 14th, of the receipt of your instructions to move and attack the enemy toward Clinton. I deemed the movement very hazardous, preferring to remain in position behind the Big Black and near to Vicksburg. I called a council of war, composed of all the general officers who were then with my movable army, and placing the subject before them (including your instructions) in every view in which it appeared to me, asked their opinions respectively. A majority of the officers expressed themselves favorable to the movement indicated by you. The others, including Major-Generals Loring and Stevenson, preferred a movement by which this army might endeavor to cut off the enemy's supplies from the Mississippi. My own views were expressed as unfavorable to any movement which would remove me from my base, which was and is Vicksburg. I did not see fit, however, to place my own judgments and opinions so far in opposition as to prevent the movement altogether; but believing the only possibility of success to be in the plan proposed, by cutting off the enemy's supplies, I directed all my disposable force (say 17,500) toward Raymond or Dillon's, encamping the night of the 15th at Mrs. Ellison's, on the main Raymond and Edwards Depot road, at a fork from which I could advance either to Raymond or Dillon's.

About 7 a. m. on the 16th, the enemy advanced his skirmishers at several points. Our line of battle was quickly formed and the position a strong one. Heavy demonstrations were made on our right, left, and center. Gradually, however, the enemy developed himself in great force against our left, under General Stevenson, re-enforced after some time by Bowen's division and subsequently by two brigades of Loring's. The enemy was repeatedly driven back, but constantly throwing in fresh

troops from his heavy re-enforcements, we were about 5 p. m. compelled to withdraw. This was done by the ford over Baker's Creek (at which a temporary bridge had been laid), crossing the middle Raymond road.

Our loss was heavy. We have lost eleven pieces of artillery, and although every arrangement was made to secure the retreat of all our troops, General Loring's division, which was comparatively fresh, and which covered the approach to the ford, has not yet crossed the Big Black. I am unable to account for his absence, as I know of no cause sufficient to have prevented his following the divisions of Bowen and Stevenson, neither of whom lost a man on the retreat.

I am unable to give further particulars at present. I commanded in person. I am for the present holding the Big Black Bridge, where a heavy cannonading is now going on. There are so many points by which I can be flanked that I fear I shall be compelled to withdraw. If so, the position at Snyder's Mill will also be untenable. General Tilghman was killed yesterday. I have about sixty days' rations in Vicksburg and at Snyder's.

I respectfully await your instructions.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

P. S.—I regret to say that some of Stevenson's troops behaved very badly.

—

CAMP, BETWEEN LIVINGSTON AND BROWNSVILLE,
Via Jackson and Montgomery, May 18, [1863.]

General S. COOPER:

Lieutenant-General Pemberton was attacked by the enemy on the morning of the 16th near Edwards Depot, and after nine hours' fighting was compelled to fall back behind Big Black. Mr. Shelton, of this neighborhood, wrote last night that he was just from Lieutenant-General Pemberton's headquarters, and that the army was falling back to Vicksburg. Mr. Robinson, just from Bovina last night, made the same report. There are two months' provisions in Vicksburg. It must ultimately fall unless we can assemble an army to relieve. I can gather in a few days 11,000, besides a garrison at Port Hudson. Send us [R. H.] Anderson's cavalry regiment from the Isle of Hope, Ga. We need it greatly.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., May 19, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

The following dispatch just received from General Bragg:

SHELBYVILLE, TENN., *May* 18, [1863.]

A brigade of cavalry from Northern Alabama moved to Mississippi several days ago. Another division is ordered to-day.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

*WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., May 23, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding, &c.:

DEAR SIR: I have no official communications or instructions to send you, but cannot omit the opportunity afforded by a courier going to you, to offer the encouragement of my full confidence and best wishes in the trying circumstances in which you are placed.

I regretted deeply, when I received the telegram announcing your arrival at Jackson, that you had not been ordered to that vital field of operations at an earlier period, but I could not think or feel that you were too late. Indeed, events since have made your presence of even greater moment than I had anticipated, and now, to retrieve our grave disasters, and save, if practicable, the all-important command of the Mississippi River, is felt to be dependent on the presence and inspiration of your military genius.

All aids and facilities in the power of the Department to render you will be promptly and heartily given, but they are felt to be far less adequate than we would gladly furnish. Guns and artillery have been forwarded from the nearest points we could find them, and, in addition to the 10,000 men previously ordered from Charleston, since your departure General Bragg, under suggestions from the President, has forwarded you 2,500 cavalry and 6,000 infantry. Unfortunately these latter re-enforcements may not reach you in time for the decisive struggle, but such despondent anticipations will not be entertained. I am altogether too remote and too uninformed as to your own resources and forces or those of the enemy, even if I had the requisite military experience or knowledge, to venture on instructions, or even counsel, as to your operations. I can only assure you of my full appreciation and confidence, and cheer myself under the darkening aspect of our late reverses by unabated reliance on your zeal, fertility of resource, and generalship.

I venture, with diffidence, only one suggestion, and that not strictly applicable to your own field of operations.† It is, that should opportunity of communication with General Holmes or General Price occur, it might be well to urge they should make diversions for you, or, in case of the fall of Vicksburg, secure a great future advantage to the Confederacy by the attack on and seizure of Helena, while all available forces of the enemy are being pushed to Grant's aid. Had I command of communication, this suggestion would be directly addressed and pressed by the Department. Its policy is so apparent that it is hoped it will be voluntarily embraced and executed.

With my best wishes, most cordially, yours,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 25, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

It is important that I should know what troops to expect. Please inform me and have them urged on; they come too slowly.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

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* This letter was not transmitted to the Confederate Congress.

† An extract embracing all that follows was transmitted to E. Kirby Smith. See Series I, Vol. XXII, Part I, p. 407.

*JACKSON, MISS., *May* 25, 1863.

General S. COOPER, *Richmond:*

Of the 10,000 men promised from Carolina and Georgia, but 6,500 have arrived. Do urge them forward.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *May* 25, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss:

General Bragg telegraphs the President, the 23d, that he sent with you 3,500, three battalions of artillery, and 2,000 cavalry, and will dispatch 6,000 more immediately. No troops have been ordered from this quarter except about 7,000 from General Beauregard's command, which it is presumed have already joined you.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

—

CANTON, MISS., *May* 26, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

Please remind the President that in my dispatch of the 21st I stated that two major-generals would be required in Mississippi. Let me urge immediate action. Could not Brigadier-General [Joseph R.] Davis' brigade be sent?

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., May 27, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: Brig. Gen. G. J. Rains, having been detailed for duty in connection with torpedoes and sub-terra shells, has been ordered to report to you. The President has confidence in his inventions, and is desirous that they should be employed both on land and river, if opportunity offers, at Vicksburg and its vicinity. Should communications allow, you are desired to send him there; but if otherwise, to employ him in his devices against the enemy where most assailable in that way elsewhere. All reasonable facilities and aid in his supply of men or material for the fair trial of his torpedoes and shells are requested on your part. Such means of offense against the enemy are approved and recognized by the Department as legitimate weapons of warfare.

With high esteem, very truly, yours,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 27, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War, Richmond Va.:

SIR: Saturday night, May 9, I received at Tullahoma your order, by telegraphic dispatch, to proceed to Mississippi and take immediate command of the army. I started the next morning. At Lake Station I re-

*This letter not transmitted to the Confederate Congress.

ceived a dispatch from Lieutenant-General Pemberton, directed to Tullahoma, asking for re-enforcements, as the enemy in large force was moving easterly from the Mississippi south of the Big Black, and stating that Edwards Depot, their probable destination, would be the battle-field.

I arrived in Jackson on Wednesday evening, May 13, and learned from Brigadier-General Gregg, who had just arrived, that he had about 5,000 men; also that Sherman's corps (four divisions) occupied Clinton. Immediately I dispatched written messages by couriers to Lieutenant-General Pemberton, informing him of my arrival and of the occupation of Clinton by Sherman's corps—four divisions, as I had been informed. I urged the importance of re-establishing communication, that he might be re-enforced; ordered that he should, if practicable, come upon the enemy's rear at once with all the strength he could quickly assemble, informing him that we could co-operate in such an attack.

On Thursday, May 14, after all preparations had been completed, and orders to Brigadier-Generals Gist and [S. B.] Maxey for the security of their commands had been given, I evacuated Jackson about noon (2 p. m.), being obliged to take the Canton road, at right angles to that upon which the enemy approached. That evening, from our camp about 6 miles from Jackson, I sent dispatch to Lieutenant-General Pemberton, informing him that General Gregg and his command had been compelled to evacuate Jackson, and of the direction taken; that Brigadier-General Gist had been ordered to assemble the approaching troops at a point 40 or 50 miles from Jackson, and Brigadier-General Maxey to return to his wagons and advised to join Brigadier-General Gist; expressed the hope that this force would be able to prevent the enemy in Jackson from drawing provisions from the east, and that Brigadier-General Gregg's force would be able to keep him from the country toward Panola; inquired if the enemy could not be cut off from his supplies from the Mississippi, and, above all, should the enemy from want of supplies be compelled to fall back, could he (General Pemberton) not beat him. I strongly urged concentration of troops.

On Friday morning, May 15, I received a dispatch from Lieutenant-ant General Pemberton, dated 5.40 p. m., Edwards Depot, May 14, stating that he would move early next morning with a column of 17,000 men to Dillon's (situated on the main road leading from Raymond to Port Gibson, 7½ miles below Raymond and 9½ miles from Edwards Depot), to cut enemy's communications and force the enemy to attack him, as he did not consider his force sufficient to justify his attacking the enemy in position or cutting his way to Jackson. This dispatch was brought by Captain [William S.] Yerger, who bore the dispatch of the 13th instant to General Pemberton. I immediately acknowledged receipt of the above dispatch, and answered General Pemberton that our movement to the north rendered his plan of junction by Raymond impracticable, and ordered him to move so as to effect a junction, and to communicate with me, so that I might unite to his force about 6,000 men. The copy of this dispatch (sent from a point on the Jackson and Canton road about 10 miles from Jackson) was mislaid, and at present cannot be found.

On Saturday, May 16, at Calhoun Station, I received a dispatch from Lieutenant-General Pemberton, dated 9.10 a. m., Bovina, May 14, stating that he moves at once from Edwards Depot with his whole available force, explaining disposition of his troops, and closing dispatch by stating that he at once complies with my order. This dispatch I received in the afternoon, having waited here all day to be advised by General Pemberton of the direction of his movements.

In the evening of the same day I received a dispatch from General Pemberton, dated 8 a. m., 4 miles south of Edwards, May 16, acknowledging receipt of my letter written from the Canton road, stating that he received it at 6.30 o'clock that morning; that it found the army in the middle road to Raymond; that he had issued the order of countermarch; that owing to destruction of bridge on Baker's Creek his march would be on the road from Edwards Depot in the direction of Brownsville; that in going to Clinton he would leave Bolton Depot to the right. In a postscript he reported heavy skirmishing then going on in his front.

On Sunday, May 17, I marched 15 miles in the direction indicated in General Pemberton's note, and on that evening Captain [Thomas] Henderson brought me a letter from General Pemberton, dated Bovina, May 17, giving me intelligence of his being compelled on the 16th instant, after engaging the enemy, to withdraw with heavy loss to Big Black Bridge. A copy of this letter I forwarded that night to General Cooper.

General Pemberton expressed fears that he would be compelled to fall back from Big Black Bridge, and, if so, he represented that the position at Snyder's Mill would also be untenable.

During the night I received information that General Pemberton had fallen back to Vicksburg. I then determined by easy marches to establish my line between Jackson and Canton, as the junction of the two commands had become impossible. During that night, after having received the above information, I sent a dispatch to General Pemberton that, "if Haynes' Bluff be untenable, Vicksburg is of no value and cannot be held; evacuate the place, if not rendered too late by invest ment to save the troops."

On Monday, the 18th instant, near Vernon, I received a letter from General Pemberton, dated Vicksburg, May 17, informing me that he had fallen back to the line of intrenchments around Vicksburg, having been attacked and forced back from Big Black Bridge. Also that he had ordered the abandonment of Snyder's Mill.

On the 19th instant, I received a letter from General Pemberton, acknowledging the receipt of my communication in reply to his, brought by Captain Henderson, and stating that he assembled a council of war of the general officers of his command, who unanimously expressed the opinion upon my instructions that it was impossible to withdraw the army from Vicksburg with such *morale* and material as to be of further service to the Confederacy.

On the 19th instant, I sent orders by telegraphic dispatches and by couriers to Major-General Gardner to evacuate Port Hudson.

On the 20th and 21st instant, the brigades of Generals Gist, Ector, and McNair joined my command. The last troops of Brigadier-General Evans' brigade arrived on the day before yesterday. Major-General Loring, with his command, arrived here about the 19th instant, and Brigadier-General Maxey's brigade on the 23d instant.

The troops above mentioned, with General Breckinridge's division, of General Bragg's army, will make a force of about 23,000 effective men. Grant's army is estimated at 60,000 or 80,000 men, and his troops are worth double the number of Northeastern troops. We cannot relieve General Pemberton except by defeating Grant, who is believed to be fortifying. We must make the attempt with such a force as the Government can furnish for the object; unless more may be expected, the attempt must be made with the force now here and that coming. If possible, however, additional troops should be sent to make up an

army of at least 30,000 men—infantry. Even that force would be small for the object. An army of 23,000 men for offensive operations against Grant seems to me too small, considering his large force. We need very much good general officers.

I find it necessary to organize an army, and to provide for it subsistence, ammunition, and means of transportation.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.
General.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 28, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

I respectfully ask that Surg. D. W. Yandell, medical director Hardee's corps, be assigned as medical director of my command. He is now on duty with me. Be pleased to answer by telegraph.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., May 30, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Jackson, Miss:*

Surg. D. W. Yandell will be assigned as you desire.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 2, 1863.
(Received June 4.)

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

Your letter of the 25th and a telegram from the President show that you are misinformed as to the force at my disposal. The effective force, infantry and artillery, is: From Lieutenant-General Pemberton, 9,831; from General Bragg, 7,939; from General Beauregard, 6,283; total, 24.053, Brigadier-General [W. H.] Jackson's cavalry (not arrived), and irregular troops protecting northern and southern frontiers not included.

Grant is receiving continual accessions. Tell me if it is your intention to make up the number you gave the President as my force, or if I may expect more troops. With the present force we cannot succeed without great blunders by the enemy. Each portion of this dispatch in cipher is independent of the preceding.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., June 3, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Jackson, Miss.:*

I am concerned at your telegram to the President as to the number of your forces. I had reported them to him as rather more than 30,000, thus made up: 3,500 taken with you; 10,000 sent from Charleston; 2,500 cavalry, and 6,000 infantry from General Bragg; 4,000 at least, under [J.] Gregg, at Jackson on your arrival; 6,000 under Loring. In addition, I suggested you might have a brigade or so from Port Hudson. Where was the mistake on my part?

I feel intense anxiety as to your plans, and should be gratified to learn them as far as you deem safe to inform me.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

CANTON, MISS., *June* 4, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War:

Your dispatch of yesterday received. By [The] mistake on your part is, that all your numbers are too large; in reference to Beauregard nearly as ten to six. The troops you mentioned, including Jackson's, just arrived, are less than 5,600.* My only plan is to relieve Vicksburg. My force is far too small for the purpose; tell me if you can increase it, and how much. Grant is receiving re-enforcements. Port Hudson is closely invested. The great object of the enemy for this campaign is to acquire possession of the Mississippi. Can you collect here a force sufficient to defeat the object?

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 5, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

The mistake was not mine, as I rested on official reports of numbers sent. I regret inability to promise more troops, as we have drained resources even to the danger of several points. You know best concerning General Bragg's army, but I fear to withdraw more. We are too far outnumbered in Virginia to spare any. You must rely on what you have and the irregular forces Mississippi can afford. Your judgment and skill are fully relied on, but I venture the suggestion that to relieve Vicksburg speedy action is essential. With the facilities and resources of the enemy time works against us.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

CANTON, MISS., *June* 5, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

DEAR SIR: I thank you cordially for your kind letter of May 25 [23], but almost regret that you feel such confidence in me as is expressed in it. From the present condition of affairs, I fear that confidence dooms you to disappointment. Every day gives some new intelligence of the enemy's strength—of re-enforcements on the way to him. My first intention on learning that Lieutenant-General Pemberton was in Vicksburg was to form an army to succor him. I suppose, from my telegraphic correspondence with the Government, that all the troops to be hoped for have arrived. Our resources seem so small, and those of the enemy so great, that the relief of Vicksburg is beginning to appear impossible to me. Pemberton will undoubtedly make a gallant and obstinate defense, and hold out as long as he can make resistance; but unless we assemble a force strong enough to break Grant's line of investment, the surrender of the place will be a mere question of time. General Grant is receiving re-enforcements almost daily. His force, according to the best information to be had, is more than treble that which I command. Our

* In General Johnston's "Letters-sent" book, this appears as 26,000; it is as above in dispatch received by Mr. Seddon.

scouts say, too, that he has constructed lines of circumvallation and has blocked up all roads leading to his position. The enterprise of forcing the enemy's lines would be a difficult one to a force double that at my disposal. If you are unable to increase that force decidedly, I must try to accomplish something in aid of the besieged garrison; and yet, when considering it, it seems to me desperate.

Your suggestion to General Kirby Smith was promptly dispatched to him. I have no doubt that the time is favorable for attacking Helena.

In replying by telegraph to your letter and telegrams, I have said that if you can increase this army it should be done. If you cannot, nothing is left for us but to struggle manfully with such means as the Government can furnish.

I beg you to consider in connection with affairs in this department that I have had not only to organize, but to provide means of transportation and supplies of all sorts for an army. The artillery is not yet equipped. All of Lieutenant-General Pemberton's supplies were, of course, with his troops about Vicksburg and Port Hudson. I found myself, therefore, without subsistence, stores, ammunition, or the means of conveying those indispensables. It has proved more difficult to collect wagons and provisions than I expected. We have not yet the means of operating for more than four days away from the railroads. That to Vicksburg is destroyed. We draw our provisions from the northern part of the State. The protection of that country employs about 2,500 irregular cavalry. It is much too small. I am endeavoring to increase it by calling for volunteers, but am by no means sanguine as to the result.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CANTON, MISS., *June* 5, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Grant still receives re-enforcements. Scouts near Friar's Point report 8 boats, loaded with troops, passed down Monday and Tuesday. Twelve empty transports passed up.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CANTON, MISS., *June* 5, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Brigadier-General [J. W.] Whitfield, who was ordered to report to me when I was in Tennessee, but could not, has just done so. What is your intention in regard to him? I am informed that it will be very unfortunate for him to command the brigade to which he has belonged.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CANTON, *June* 6, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

The following is just received from Capt. Thomas Henderson, of scout service:

PANOLA, MISS., *June* 6, 1863.

Scout Wilson reports, 11 o'clock yesterday, since Sunday seventeen transports with troops gone down the river from Memphis. All came from railroad. Grant orders all forces possible sent him. Eight thousand wounded arrived and large arrangements made for more.

THOS. HENDERSON.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 8, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Canton, Miss:

General Whitfield was believed to be peculiarly acceptable to his brigade. What is the objection? Do you advise more re-enforcements from General Bragg? You, as commandant of the department, have power so to order, if you, in view of the whole case, so determine. We cannot send from Virginia or elsewhere, for we stand already not one to two.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

CANTON, MISS., *June* 9, 1863.
VIA MONTGOMERY, [*June*] 10.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Your dispatch of yesterday in cipher was received, but cannot be read. Please repeat it.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 10, 1863.
(Received June 13.)

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

Your dispatch of June 8, in cipher, received. You do not give orders in regard to the recently appointed general officers. Please do it. I have not at my [disposal] half the number of troops necessary. It is for the Government to determine what department, if any, can furnish the re-enforcements required. I cannot know here General Bragg's wants compared with mine. The Government can make such comparisons. Your dispatch is imperfectly deciphered.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 12, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

Your dispatch of the 8th imperfectly deciphered and partially answered on the 10th. I have not considered myself commanding in Tennessee since assignment here, and should not have felt authorized to take troops from that department after having been informed by the Executive that no more could be spared. To take from Bragg a force which would make this army fit to oppose Grant, would involve yielding Tennessee. It is for the Government to decide between this State and Tennessee.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CAMDEN, MISS., *June* 13, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

Scout at Friar's Point on the 9th instant reports nine transports full of infantry and artillery went down the river since Sunday; force supposed to be about 13,000. In addition to the above, same scout reports fourteen more transports crowded with infantry and artillery went down the river on the 10th instant.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 15, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Your repeated dispatch of the 8th is deciphered. I cannot advise in regard to the points from which troops can best be taken, having no means of knowing, nor is it for me to judge which it is best to hold—Mississippi or Tennessee; that is for the Government to determine. Without some great blunder of the enemy we cannot hold both. The odds against me are much greater than those you express. I consider saving Vicksburg hopeless.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., June 16, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

Your telegram grieves and alarms me. Vicksburg must not be lost without a desperate struggle. The interest and honor of the Confederacy forbid it. I rely on you still to avert the loss. If better resources do not offer, you must hazard attack. It may be made in concert with the garrison, if practicable, but otherwise without, by day or night, as you think best.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 16, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

General Bragg informs me that a telegram from Louisville of the 10th says that part of the Ninth and Twenty-third Corps have been sent to re-enforce Grant. Will not this enable us to invade Kentucky? For this, General Bragg's command should extend over East Tennessee.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 19 [18], 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Dispatch of 16th received. I think that you do not appreciate the difficulties in the course you direct nor the probabilities or consequences of failure. Grant's position, naturally very strong, is intrenched and protected by powerful artillery, and the roads obstructed. His re-enforcements have been at least equal to my whole force. The Big Black covers him from attack, and would cut off our retreat if defeated. We cannot combine operations with General Pemberton from uncertain and slow communication. The defeat of this little army would at once open Mississippi and Alabama to Grant. I will do all I can, without hope of doing more than aid to extricate the garrison.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 19, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

A courier has arrived here with dispatches from General Gardner of the 10th instant. The courier reports the garrison in good spirits. General Gardner states that he has repulsed the enemy in several severe

attacks, but he is still closely invested; that he is getting short of provisions and ammunition, and should be speedily relieved.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 20, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War:

On arriving here I informed General Kirby Smith of the condition of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and requested his aid and co-operation, which he has given. General Taylor, with 8,000 men, is opposite Vicksburg, and temporarily occupies Milliken's Bend and other points on the river. The presence of this force is encouraging. Nothing can be done by us to relieve Port Hudson, which is in imminent peril. General Taylor will make such demonstrations opposite Port Hudson as he can.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 21, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Yours of the 19th received. Consequences are realized and difficulties are recognized as very great, but I still think, other means failing, the course recommended should be hazarded. The aim, in my judgment, justifies any risk and all probable consequences.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 21, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Only my conviction of almost imperative necessity for action induces the official dispatch I have just sent you. On every ground I have great deference to your superior knowledge of the position, your judgment and military genius, but I feel it right to share, if need be to take, the responsibility, and leave you free to follow the most desperate course the occasion may demand.. Rely upon it, the eyes and hopes of the whole Confederacy are upon you, with the full confidence that you will act, and with the sentiment that it were better to fail nobly daring than through prudence even to be inactive. I look to attack in last resort, but rely on your resources of generalship to suggest less desperate modes of relief. I can scarce dare to suggest, but might it not be possible to strike Banks first and unite the garrison of Port Hudson with you or to secure sufficient co-operation from General Smith, or to practically besiege Grant by operations with artillery from the swamps now dry on the north side of the Yazoo below Haynes' Bluff? I rely on you for all possible [efforts] to save Vicksburg.

J. A. SEDDON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 22 [21?], 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Positive information has just been received from General E. K. Smith that fifty-seven transports with troops passed Napoleon on the 11th and 12th last, going down the Mississippi River.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

CANTON, MISS., *June* 22, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War:

Your dispatch of 21st received, but cannot be deciphered. Please repeat it, using as few words as possible in cipher.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 23, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

General Ruggles reports that on the 20th instant attacked the enemy, 800 strong, with two guns, near Rocky Ford, on Tallahatchee. Routed him completely, captured his baggage train, ammunition, and supplies, killing about 50. Our loss small.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

CANTON, MISS., *June* 24, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Your two dispatches of 21st received. There has been no voluntary inaction. When I came, all military materials of the department were in Vicksburg and Port Hudson. Artillery had to be brought from the east; horses for it and all field transportation procured in an exhausted country—much from Georgia brought over wretched railroads—and provisions collected. I have not had the means of moving. We cannot contend with the enemy north of the Yazoo. He can place a large force there in a few hours; we a small one in ten or twelve days. We cannot relieve Port Hudson without giving up Jackson, by which we should lose Mississippi. Kirby Smith sent troops to give all possible aid to Vicksburg, but they have not been used by their commanders.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *June* 26, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

I have just received reliable information through a friend from Baltimore that Grant telegraphed for supplies and ammunition, both failing. Train of cars laden with such was sent through Baltimore ten days ago, marked for Yazoo City, to proceed via Cairo, under charge of a person friendly to the South and anxious to have a chance to yield them to capture. This may possibly prove useful.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *June* 29, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

The following dispatch has just been received:

ALEXANDRIA, *June* 26, 1863,
VIA NATCHEZ, *June* 27.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

I have the honor to inform you that on the 23d instant General Taylor stormed, at the point of the bayonet, with unloaded muskets, the enemy's position at Berwick

Bay, capturing over 1,000 prisoners, ten heavy guns, and a large amount of stores of all descriptions. The position of Thibodeaux was also carried. This gives him the command of the Mississippi River above New Orleans, and will enable him in a great measure to cut off Banks' supplies.

E. SURGET,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 7, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

A telegram of the 5th instant, signed "Woodson," approved by T. B. Lamar, chief of staff, informing of the fall of Vicksburg, is just received. Telegraph if this be true and any particulars known.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 8, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

Your dispatch of the 7th received. The following was sent you yesterday directly after the intelligence of the fall of Vicksburg was received:

Vicksburg capitulated on the 4th instant; the garrison was paroled and are to be returned to our lines, the officers retaining their side-arms and personal baggage. This intelligence was brought by an officer who left the place on Sunday, the 5th instant. In consequence, I am falling back from the Big Black to Jackson.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

Colonel [L. M.] Montgomery has just arrived from Vicksburg. He was directed by General Pemberton to have supplies prepared at this place for 22,000 men, the paroled garrison of Vicksburg.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 8, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

The paroled garrison of Vicksburg will be here in a few days. What shall be done with the men? They cannot remain in this department without great injury to us from deficiency of supplying them. Shall they go to their homes until exchanged, or be distributed in regiments in their respective States? Can they be exchanged immediately for prisoners taken in the recent great Confederate victory?

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *July* 8, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

Inform fully as you know of the terms of capitulation of Vicksburg, especially the position of officers and men in relation to parole and power of exchange.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 9, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

I have nothing official of capitulation of Vicksburg. An officer of the garrison told me that the terms were those I stated: The troops to be paroled and sent into our lines as soon as form is complied with; officers to retain baggage and side-arms; soldiers their clothing. Provisions being exhausted, the general officers proposed capitulation to General Pemberton. I have not heard of the garrison.

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

—

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., July 10, 1863.

Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR:

The following telegram was received by the President, and is forwarded to you for your information:

Your dispatch of yesterday received. No report of Taylor's junction has reached me, as it must have done, if true, as we have 1,200 cavalry in that vicinity. I hear nothing official from Vicksburg. Maj. Jacob Thompson, of General Pemberton's staff, gives me the following list: Lieutenant-General Pemberton, Major-Generals [C. L.] Stevenson, [J. H.] Forney, M. L. Smith, and [J. S.] Bowen; Brigadier-Generals [S. M.] Barton, [S. D.] Lee, [A.] Cumming, [J. C.] Moore, [W. E.] Baldwin, [L.] Hébert, [J. C.] Vaughn, and [F. A.] Shoup; Colonels [A. W.] Reynolds, [T. N.] Waul, and [F. M.] Cockrell, commanders brigades; also Brigadier-General [John V.] Harris, of Mississippi militia.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
WM. PRESTON JOHNSTON,
Colonel and Aide-de-Camp.

[Indorsement.]

JULY 11, 1863.

Referred to Colonel [Robert] Ould for information as to general officers for exchange.

J. A. S. [SEDDON],
Secretary.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., July 10, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

To afford facilities for exchange at the earliest period, telegraph as soon as you know the number of privates, sergeants, corporals, lieutenants, captains, majors, lieutenant-colonels, colonels, brigadiers, and generals, designating as far as practicable the number of the foregoing belonging to each regiment; at any rate send the designation of the regiments captured. After full lists are prepared, you will send them on without delay, but telegraph only as above.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *July* 14, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

General Pemberton has recommended that his troops be furloughed. Should the recommendation be accepted, it will have an injurious effect

upon this army, unless the paroled troops are first moved to a distance. I suppose that they should move to the camp at Demopolis, and have so informed General Pemberton.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., July 16, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Jackson, Miss.:

The following officers, having been duly exchanged, are released from parole, and at liberty to return to service:

Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton; Major-Generals Stevenson, Forney, M. L. Smith, and Bowen; Brigadier-Generals Barton, Lee, Cumming, Moore, Hébert, Baldwin, Vaughn, and Shoup; Colonels Reynolds, Waul, and Cockrell, commanding brigades; also Brigadier-General Harris, Mississippi militia.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJT. AND INSP. GEN.'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Va., July 22, 1863.

General JOHNSTON, *Morton, Miss.:*

In conformity with your expressed wish, you are relieved from the further command of the Department of Tennessee, which, as advised by you, is united to that of East Tennessee, so as to extend General Bragg's command over the department of General Buckner.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., July 24, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: The president of the Mississippi Central Railroad telegraphs that you have ordered the destruction by fire of railroad equipments to the value of $5,000,000. The President directs that efforts be made to bring away the equipments, which should be taken down the road for removal as far as may be necessary.*

Your obedient servant,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., July 24, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: If you have not had occasion to use the funds transmitted through Commodore [Samuel] Barron, you will please return them by the

* For reply of August 2, see Addenda, p. 235.

first safe opportunity, as the Secretary of the Navy, from whose appropriations they were drawn, needs the amount for sterling exchange.

With high regard, your obedient servant,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

MORTON, MISS., *July* 24, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

Your dispatch of 22d, relieving me from command of Department of Tennessee, received. Major-General Maury thinks attack on Mobile threatening. I request that [H. D.] Clayton's brigade, belonging to Mobile garrison, and sent by me to General Bragg in emergency, may be ordered back immediately. Major-General Maury has but 2,500 men for land defense.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Richmond, Va., July 25, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Morton, Miss.:

I am requested by the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct that all cotton belonging to the Government liable to fall into the hands of the enemy, which cannot be removed, be destroyed.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

MOBILE, ALA., *July* 29, 1863.

General S. COOPER:

I came here because Major-General Maury apprehends attack. His scouts at Pensacola report Admiral Farragut went north yesterday, which indicates no attack. Officers from Vicksburg report that all troops go up the river.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

MOBILE, ALA., *July* 29, 1863.
(Received at Richmond, Va., July 30.)

General S. COOPER:

What is the extent of my command? I return to Morton to-night.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

MORTON, MISS., *July* 30, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON:

I conversed this morning with Major [H. M.] Mathews, of the artillery, just from Vicksburg, who says that one of Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith's staff told him that Grant had sent very few troops up the river, but about the 22d had seventeen transports of troops down. Others had preceded these. Reports from different sources all so contradictory that no opinion of the enemy's intentions can be formed. The officer above named says that the Federals destroyed everything connected with cultivation of ground between Jackson and Big Black River, including growing crops.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJT. AND INSP. GEN.'S OFFICE,
Richmond, Va., July 31, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Morton, Miss.:

Your command embraces the country west of the line between Georgia and Alabama, and running south to the Gulf, as before General Bragg's department was formed. Its western limit is the Mississippi River and its northern boundary the Tennessee River and Kentucky line.

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

—

MORTON, MISS., *July* 31, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War:

The following telegram is forwarded for the information of the War Department:

MOBILE, ALA., *July* 30, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

A gentleman who left Vicksburg on Friday states that Grant is still in Vicksburg. Is repairing road to Jackson. Expect bridge over Big Black to be ready for transportation of cars in about thirty days. There is great and increasing sickness in the army, and their expectation is that it will be sixty days before they will move to Jackson. They propose to go to Meridian, to Demopolis, and to Selma, and then invest Mobile. They were actively organizing negro regiments, which they threw across into Louisiana as fast as organized. No large force has been sent up the river. Those sent were of Burnside's corps and troops whose time had expired. McPherson in command at Vicksburg; Parke at Snyder's Bluff. Informant is person of intelligence and veracity, with peculiar opportunities of information. Another officer just in from New Orleans with prisoners states that Banks' force has been recently increased from Grant, and that they propose soon sending one portion of Banks' army over into Louisiana, and another, 20,000 strong, to Pascagoula. Grant is collecting immense supplies of stores at Vicksburg.

DABNEY H. MAURY,
Major-General, Commanding.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

RICHMOND, *August* 12, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Morton, Miss.:

GENERAL: The limits of your department on the east and north seem settled by Special Orders, copies of which are herein inclosed; but as you request a more explicit statement defining them, I reply by letter. It is contemplated that your command shall embrace the country west of the Appalachicola and Chattahoochee Rivers, and of the Alabama and Georgia State line, until it strikes the southeastern corner of Calhoun County, in the former State; thence along the southern line of the following tier of counties in Alabama, to wit, Calhoun, Saint Clair, Blount, Morgan, Lawrence, and Franklin; thence along the Alabama and Mississippi State line to the Tennessee River, and along that river to its confluence with the Ohio River. The counties named above, and all the country north of them, come within the limit of General Bragg's department.

Very respectfully, &c.,

S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

[Inclosures.]

SPECIAL ORDERS, } ADJT. AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
No. 176. } *Richmond, Va., July* 25, 1863.

* * * * * * *

VI. The Department of East Tennessee is merged in the Department of Tennessee, which will be separate and independent, reporting directly to this office.

VII. The limits of the Department of Tennessee will embrace the country now included in the Department of East Tennessee, and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina and a line running south to the Georgia Railroad; thence along the lines of railroad via Atlanta to West Point, and from that place north to the Tennessee River and down that stream to its mouth.

By command of the Secretary of War.

JNO. WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } ADJT. AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,
No. 184. } *Richmond, August* 4, 1863.

* * * * * * *

VIII. The limits of the Department of Tennessee, as described in Paragraph VII, Special Orders, No. 176, current series, will embrace also the following counties in Alabama, viz, the counties of Franklin, Lawrence, Morgan, Blount, Saint Clair, Calhoun, Cherokee, De Kalb, and Marshall.

* * * * * * *

By command of the Secretary of War:

JNO. WITHERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

MORTON, MISS., *August* 20, 1863.

General S. COOPER, *Adjutant and Inspector General:*

GENERAL: I thank you for your letter of the 12th, which I have just received, with copies of so much of Special Orders, Nos. 176 and 184, as define the limits of General Bragg's command, and your telegram to me of July 31. These papers cannot be misunderstood. As my apology for having troubled you more than once on this subject, I respectfully inclose copies of your telegram and Paragraph VII, Special Orders, No. 176, as I received them originally,* one marred by the operator, the other without the important line following the name "West Point."

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.

ADDENDA.

MORTON, *August* 2, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Richmond:*

Your letter of July 24 received. The order concerning rolling stock of Mississippi railroads was to destroy rather than permit it to fall into the enemy's hands. The enemy has fallen back, and the superintendents of roads have been promised protection if they repair. I hope to be able soon to draw supplies again from the country through which the Mississippi Central Railroad passes.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

* Not found.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., August 6, 1863.

Col. B. S. EWELL,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Army of the West:

COLONEL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, transmitting copy of a dispatch in cipher from the President to General J. E. Johnston, which you were not able to decipher. I inclose a copy from the original of the dispatch for the completion of your files.

Very respectfully,

G. W. C. LEE,
Colonel and Aide-de-Camp.

P. S.—I have tested parts of your copy, and find no difficulty in deciphering it. The old key was probably used by your officer instead of the new, which, we had been informed by the Chief of the Signal Corps, had been substituted in all the military departments for the old key.

[Inclosure.]

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., July 18, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Brandon, Miss.:*

Your dispatch of yesterday received, informing me of your retreat from Jackson toward the east. I desire to know your ulterior purpose. The enemy may not pursue, but move up the Central road, lay waste the rich country toward Tennessee, and co-operate afterward with Rosecrans. Another column, Eastern Louisiana being abandoned, may be sent from New Orleans to attack Mobile on the land side.

The recommendation to furlough the paroled troops from Vicksburg offers a hard alternative under the pressure of our present condition.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., December 29, 1863.

The PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

SIR: In response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted on the 11th instant, I have the honor to transmit a copy of "the orders given to and correspondence had with General Joseph E. Johnston during the months of May, June, and July, 1863, concerning his command and the operations in his department." A copy of the order assigning General Johnston to command is also transmitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

[Inclosure.]

DECEMBER 31, 1863.

Captain [R. G. H.] KEAN:

The President directs me to suggest to the Secretary of War that the resolution seems to call for all correspondence had with General Johnston during the time specified—that which was had with the Executive as well as that with the War Office.

Did not the bundle of correspondence taken from this office by Major Barton include all? If so, will you not be good enough to ask him to have the proper additions made to this?

Again, you will perceive from the pencil cross near the top of the first page of the first telegram from General Johnston that there is a manifest omission of one or more words. Please have the error corrected, and the rest of the manuscript carefully examined, and oblige, your obedient servant,

BURTON N. HARRISON,
Private Secretary.

—

DALTON, *January* 30, 1864.

General S. COOPER, *Richmond:*

I respectfully ask to be furnished with Lieutenant-General Pemberton's explanation of his report, and also his supplemental report.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

—

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., June 11, 1864.

The PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

SIR: I have received the following resolution of the House of Representatives, referred by Your Excellency to this Department:

Resolved, That the President be respectfully requested, in addition to the correspondence heretofore communicated to Congress between the President and Secretary of War and General Joseph E. Johnston, in relation to the conduct of the war in the Valley of the Mississippi, to communicate to Congress so much of said correspondence as has not yet been called for by this House, commencing with a letter of November 24, 1862, addressed by General Johnston to the Hon. G. W. Randolph,* Secretary of War, and including General Johnston's reply † to the letter of the President of July last, which closes the published correspondence.

In response, I have the honor to transmit the accompanying copies ‡ of the correspondence on file in this Department. The preparation of these copies has been delayed by the absence in the field of most of the clerical force during the entire session of Congress, and the difficulty of finding some of the letters. One of General Johnston's communications, under date of April 28, 1863, has not yet been found, but I have directed further search to be made for it in the office of the Adjutant-General. As the adjournment of Congress is at hand, I have thought it best not to delay longer a response to the resolution of the House.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

No. 10.

Report of General Joseph E. Johnston, C. S. Army, of operations March 12–July 20.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., December 24, 1863.

The PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

SIR: In response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, I have the honor to submit herewith the report of General J. E. John-

* See Johnston to Cooper, Series I, Vol. XVII, Part II, p. 758.
† Of August 8, 1863. See p. 209.
‡ Not identified; but see Johnston's correspondence, in Part III.

ston of his operations in the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana. In natural connection with this, I likewise send the report of Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton * of the battles of Port Gibson, Baker's Creek, and the siege of Vicksburg, which is among the reports called for by the House of Representatives. With the latter is presented a letter from the Department, asking further explanations on some points of the reports, and the answer made thereto at the time by General Pemberton. Subsequently, after seeing the report of General Johnston, General Pemberton considered his reply to that letter as not so fully elucidating the points of inquiry as the additional details presented by General Johnston rendered appropriate and necessary. He therefore asked the privilege of making a further reply, which, in justice to himself, was accorded. That reply is likewise annexed, and thus the whole subject, it is believed, will be fairly and satisfactorily submitted in appropriate connection.

Respectfully submitted.

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

[Inclosure.]

MERIDIAN, MISS., *November* 1, 1863.

SIR: The following report of my operations in the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana is respectfully offered as a substitute for the imperfect one forwarded by me from Jackson on May 27, 1863.†

While on my way to Mississippi, where I thought my presence had become necessary, I received, in Mobile, on March 12, the following telegram from the Secretary of War, dated March 9:

> Order General Bragg to report to the War Department for conference. Assume yourself direct charge of the Army of Middle Tennessee.

In obedience to this order, I at once proceeded to Tullahoma. On my arrival, I informed the Secretary of War, by a telegram of March 19, that General Bragg could not then be sent to Richmond, as he was ordered, on account of the critical condition of his family.

On April 10, I repeated this to the President, and added:

> Being unwell then, I afterward became sick, and am not now able to serve in the field. General Bragg is therefore necessary here.

On the 28th, my unfitness for service in the field was reported to the Secretary of War.

On May 9, I received, at Tullahoma, the following dispatch of the same date from the Secretary of War:

> Proceed at once to Mississippi and take chief command of the forces there, giving to those in the field, as far as practicable, the encouragement and benefit of your personal direction.

It is thus seen that neither my orders nor my health permitted me to visit Mississippi after March 12, until the time when I took direct charge of that department.

From the time of my arrival at Tullahoma until April 14, General Pemberton's reports, all by telegraph, indicated that the efforts of the enemy would be against General Bragg rather than himself, and looked to the abandonment of his attempts on Vicksburg.

In that of April 13, he says:

> I am satisfied Rosecrans will be re-enforced from Grant's army. Shall I order troops to Tullahoma?

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* See No. 11, p. 249.

† See p. 220. Transmitted by Davis.

On April 17, General Pemberton telegraphed the return of Grant and the resumption of the operations against Vicksburg.

On April 29, he telegraphed:

The enemy is at Hard Times in large force, with barges and transports, indicating a purpose to attack Grand Gulf with a view to Vicksburg.

He also reported:

Heavy firing at Grand Gulf. The enemy shelling our batteries both above and below.

On May 1, he telegraphed:

A furious battle has been going on since daylight just below Port Gibson. * * * Enemy can cross all his army from Hard Times to Bruinsburg. I should have large re-enforcements. Enemy's movements threaten Jackson, and, if successful, cut off Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

I at once urged him to concentrate and to attack Grant immediately on his landing, and on the next day I sent the following dispatch to him:

If Grant crosses, unite all your troops to beat him. Success will give back what was abandoned to win it.

I telegraphed to you on the 1st:

General Pemberton calls for large re-enforcements. They cannot be sent from here without giving up Tennessee. Can one or two brigades be sent from the east?

On the 7th, I again asked for re-enforcements for Mississippi.

I received no further report of the battle of Port Gibson, and on the 5th asked General Pemberton, "What is the result and where is Grant's army?" I received no answer and gained no additional information in relation to either subject until I reached the Department of Mississippi, in obedience to my orders of May 9.

There, on May 13, I received a dispatch from General Pemberton, dated Vicksburg, May 12, asking for re-enforcements, as the enemy in large force was moving from the Mississippi south of the Big Black, apparently toward Edwards Depot, "which will be the battle-field if I can forward sufficient force, leaving troops enough to secure the safety of this place."

Before my arrival at Jackson, Grant had beaten General Bowen at Port Gibson, made good the landing of his army, occupied Grand Gulf, and was marching upon the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad.

On reaching Jackson, on the night of May 13, I found there the brigades of Gregg and Walker, reported at 6,000; learned from General Gregg that Maxey's brigade was expected to arrive from Port Hudson the next day; that General Pemberton's forces, except the garrison of Port Hudson (5,000) and of Vicksburg, were at Edwards Depot, the general's headquarters at Bovina; that four divisions of the enemy, under Sherman, occupied Clinton, 10 miles west of Jackson, between Edwards Depot and ourselves. I was aware that re-enforcements were on their way from the east, and that the advance of those under General Gist would probably arrive the next day, and, with Maxey's brigade, swell my force to about 11,000.

Upon this information, I sent to General Pemberton on the same night (13th) a dispatch, informing him of my arrival and of the occupation of Clinton by a portion of Grant's army; urging the importance of re-establishing communications, and ordering him to come up, if practicable, on Sherman's rear at once, and adding:

To beat such a detachment would be of immense value; the troops here could cooperate; all the strength you can quickly assemble should be brought; time is all-important.

On Thursday, May 14, the enemy advanced by the Raymond and Clinton roads upon Jackson. The resistance made by the brigades of Gregg and Walker gave sufficient time for the removal of the public stores, and at 2 p. m. we retreated by the Canton road, from which alone we could form a junction with General Pemberton. After marching 6 miles the troops encamped.

From this point I sent to General Pemberton the dispatch of May 14, of which the following is a copy:

GENERAL: The body of troops mentioned in my note of last night compelled Brigadier-General Gregg and his command to evacuate Jackson about noon to-day. The necessity of taking the Canton road at right angles to that upon which the enemy approached prevented an obstinate defense. A body of troops reported this morning to have reached Raymond last night advanced at the same time from that direction. Prisoners say that it was McPherson's corps (four divisions) which marched from Clinton. I have no certain information of the other. Both skirmished very cautiously. Telegrams were dispatched when the enemy was near, directing General Gist to assemble the approaching troops 40 or 50 miles from Jackson, and General Maxey to return to his wagons and provide for the security of his brigade—for instance, by joining General Gist. That body of troops will be able, I hope, to prevent the enemy in Jackson from drawing provisions from the east, and this one may be able to keep him from the country toward Panola. Can he supply himself from the Mississippi? Can you not cut him off from it? And, above all, should he be compelled to fall back for want of supplies, beat him? As soon as the re-enforcements are all up, they must be united to the rest of the army. I am anxious to see a force assembled that may be able to inflict a heavy blow upon the enemy. Would it not be better to place the forces to support Vicksburg between General Loring and that place, and merely observe the ferries, so that you might unite if opportunity to fight presented itself? General Gregg will move toward Canton to-morrow. If prisoners tell the truth, the forces at Jackson must be half of Grant's army. It would decide the campaign to beat it, which can be done only by concentrating, especially when the remainder of the eastern troops arrive. They are to be 12,000 or 13,000.

This dispatch was not answered. General Pemberton stated in his official report that it was received at 6 p. m. on the 16th, "while on the retreat" from the battle-field of Baker's Creek.

On the next day, May 15 (Friday), the troops under me marched 10½ miles farther, to Calhoun Station. On the morning of that day I received a letter from General Pemberton, dated Edwards Depot, May 14 (Thursday), 5.40 p. m.:

I shall move as early to-morrow morning as practicable a column of 17,000 to Dillon's. The object is to cut off enemy's communications and force him to attack me, as I do not consider my force sufficient to justify an attack on the enemy in position, or to attempt to cut my way to Jackson.

This was the first communication received from General Pemberton after my arrival at Jackson; and from it I learned that he had not moved toward Clinton ten hours after the receipt of my order to do so, and that the junction of the forces, which could have been effected by the 15th, was deferred, and that, in disobedience of my orders and in opposition to the views of the majority of the council of war, composed of all of his generals present, before whom he placed the subject, he had decided to make a movement by which the union would be impossible. General Pemberton was immediately instructed that there was but one mode by which we could unite, viz, by his moving directly to Clinton.

The brigadier-generals representing that their troops required rest after the fatigue they had undergone in the skirmishes and marches preceding the retreat from Jackson, and having yet no certain intelligence of General Pemberton's route or of General Gist's position, I did not move on Saturday.

In the evening I received a reply to my last dispatch, dated 4 miles

south of Edwards Depot, May 16, stating it had reached him at 6.30 that morning; that—

It found the army on the middle road to Raymond. The order of countermarch has been issued.* Owing to the destruction of a bridge on Baker's Creek, which runs for some distance parallel with the railroad and south of it, our march will be on the road leading from Edwards Depot in the direction of Brownsville. This road runs nearly parallel with the railroad. In going to Clinton we shall leave Bolton Depot 4 miles to the right. I am thus particular, so that you may be able to make a junction with this army.

In a postscript he reported:

Heavy skirmishing is now going on in my front.

On the afternoon of the same day, I received General Pemberton's first reply to the order sent him from Jackson to attack Sherman, dated Bovina, May 14, 9.10 a. m., as follows:

I move at once with my whole available force from Edwards Depot. In directing this move, I do not think you fully comprehend the condition Vicksburg will be left in, but I comply at once with your order.

On May 17 (Sunday), I marched 15 miles in the direction indicated in General Pemberton's note received the previous evening. In the afternoon a letter was brought from him, dated Bovina, May 17, a copy of which has been forwarded to the War Department. In this, referring to my dispatch of May 13, from Jackson, General Pemberton wrote:

I notified you on the morning of the 14th of the receipt of your instructions to move and attack the enemy toward Clinton. I deemed the movement very hazardous, preferring to remain in position behind the Big Black and near to Vicksburg. I called a council of war, composed of all the general officers. * * * A majority of the officers expressed themselves favorable to the movement indicated by you. The others, including Major-General Loring and Stevenson, preferred a movement by which this army might endeavor to cut off the enemy's supplies from the Mississippi. My own views were expressed as unfavorable to any movement which would remove me from my base, which was and is Vicksburg. I did not, however, see fit to place my own judgment and opinions so far in opposition as to prevent the movement altogether, but, believing the only possibility of success to be in the plan proposed, of cutting off the enemy's supplies, I directed all my disposable force, say 17,500, toward Raymond or Dillon's.

It also contained intelligence of his engagement with the enemy on the 16th near Baker's Creek, 3 or 4 miles from Edwards Depot, and of his having been compelled to withdraw, with heavy loss, to Big Black Bridge. He further expressed apprehension that he would be compelled to fall back from this point, and represented that, if so, his position at Snyder's Mill would be untenable, and said:

I have about sixty days' provisions at Vicksburg and Snyder's. I respectfully await your instructions.

I immediately replied, May 17:

If Haynes' Bluff be untenable, Vicksburg is of no value and cannot be held. If, therefore, you are invested in Vicksburg, you must ultimately surrender. Under such circumstances, instead of losing both troops and place, you must, if possible, save the troops. If it is not too late, evacuate Vicksburg and its dependencies, and march to the northeast.

That night I was informed that General Pemberton had fallen back to Vicksburg.

On Monday, May 18, General Pemberton informed me by letter, dated Vicksburg, May 17, that he had retired within the line of intrenchments

* Note on General Pemberton's copy says: "Sent off by General P. before being finished—copied."

around Vicksburg, having been attacked and forced back from Big Black Bridge, and that he had ordered Haynes' Bluff to be abandoned. His letter concluded with the following remark:

I greatly regret that I felt compelled to make the advance beyond Big Black, which has proved so disastrous in its results.

It will be remembered that General Pemberton expected that Edwards Depot would be the battle-field before I reached Jackson (see his dispatch of the 12th, already quoted), and that his army, before he received any orders from me, was 7 or 8 miles east of the Big Black, near Edwards Depot.

On May 19, General Pemberton's reply, dated Vicksburg, May 18, to my communication of the 17th, was brought me near Vernon, where I had gone with the troops under my command for the purpose of effecting a junction with him in the event of his evacuating Vicksburg, as I had ordered, in which he advised me that he had—

assembled a council of war of the general officers of this command, and having laid your instructions before them, asked the free expression of their opinion as to the practicability of carrying them out. The opinion was unanimously expressed that it was impossible to withdraw the army from this position with such *morale* and material as to be of further service to the Confederacy.

On receiving this information, I replied:

I am trying to gather a force which may attempt to relieve you. Hold out.

The same day I sent orders to Major-General Gardner to evacuate Port Hudson. I then determined, by easy marches, to re-establish my line between Jackson and Canton, as the junction of the two commands had become impossible.

On May 20 and 21, I was joined by the brigades of Generals Gist, Ector, and McNair. The division of General Loring, cut off from General Pemberton in the battle of Baker's Creek, reached Jackson on the 20th, and General Maxey, with his brigade, on the 23d.

By June 4, the army had, in addition to these, been re-enforced by the brigade of General [N. G.] Evans, the division of General Breckinridge, and the division of cavalry, numbering 2,800, commanded by Brig. Gen. W. H. Jackson.

Small as was this force (about 24,000 infantry and artillery,* not one-third of that of the enemy), it was deficient in artillery, in ammunition for all arms, and field transportation, and could not be moved upon that enemy (already intrenching his large force) with any hope of success. The draught upon the country had so far reduced the number of horses and mules, that it was not until late in June that draught animals could be procured from distant points for the artillery and trains.

There was no want of commissary supplies in the department, but the limited transportation caused a deficiency for a moving army.

On May 23, I received a dispatch from Major-General Gardner, dated Port Hudson, May 21, informing me that the enemy was about to cross at Bayou Sara; that the whole force from Baton Rouge was in his front, and asking to be re-enforced. On this, my orders for the evacuation of Port Hudson were repeated, and he was informed:

You cannot be re-enforced. Do not allow yourself to be invested. At every risk save the troops, and, if practicable, move in this direction.

This dispatch did not reach General Gardner, Port Hudson being then invested.

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* See Johnston to Mason, December 6, p. 249.

About May 24, the enemy made such demonstrations above the Big Black and toward Yazoo City, that I sent Walker's division to Yazoo City, with orders to fortify it, and, the demonstrations being renewed, placed Loring's division within supporting distance of Walker's, and in person took post at Canton.

Dispatches arrived from General Pemberton, dated Vicksburg, May 20 and 21. In that of the 20th he stated that the enemy had assaulted his intrenched lines the day before and were repulsed with heavy loss. He estimated their force at not less than 60,000, and asked that musket-caps be sent, they being his main necessity. He concluded:

An army will be necessary to save Vicksburg, and that quickly. Will it be sent?

On the 21st, he wrote:

The men credit and are encouraged by a report that you are near with a large force. They are fighting in good spirits and their organization is complete.

Caps were sent as fast as they arrived.

On May 29, I sent a dispatch to General Pemberton to the following effect:

I am too weak to save Vicksburg; can do no more than attempt to save you and your garrison. It will be impossible to extricate you unless you co-operate and we make mutually supporting movements. Communicate your plans and suggestions if possible.

The receipt of this was acknowledged in a communication dated Vicksburg, June 3, in which General Pemberton says:

We can get no information from outside as to your position or strength, and very little in regard to the enemy.

In a dispatch dated June 10, from General Gardner (the first received since his investment), he reported having repulsed the enemy in several severe attacks, but that he was getting short of provisions and ammunition. To which I replied June 15, informing him that I had not means of relieving him, adding:

General Taylor will do what he can on the opposite side of the river. Hold the place as long as you can, and, if possible, withdraw in any direction or cut your way out. It is very important to keep Banks and his forces occupied.

In a dispatch dated June 20, I said that General Taylor had intended to attack the enemy opposite Port Hudson on the night of the 15th, and attempt to send cattle across the river. The want of field transportation rendered any movement for the relief of Port Hudson impossible had a march in that direction been advisable; but such a march would have enabled Grant (who had now completed his strong lines around Vicksburg) to have cut my line of communication and destroyed my army, and from the moment that I put my troops in march in that direction, the whole of Middle and Northern Mississippi would have been open to the enemy.

On June 7, I repeated the substance of my dispatch of May 29, to General Pemberton.

On June 4, I told the Secretary of War, in answer to his call for my plans, that my only plan was to relieve Vicksburg, and my force was far too small for the purpose.

On June 10, I told him I had not at my disposal half the troops necessary.

On the 12th, I said to him:

To take from Bragg a force which would make this army fit to oppose Grant would involve yielding Tennessee. It is for the Government to decide between this State and Tennessee.

On the 14th, I sent General Pemberton the following:

All that we can attempt to do is to save you and your garrison. To do this, exact co-operation is indispensable. By fighting the enemy simultaneously at the same points of his line, you may be extricated. Our joint forces cannot raise the siege of Vicksburg. My communications with the rear can best be preserved by operating north of railroad. Inform me as soon as possible what points will suit you best. Your dispatches of the 12th received. General Taylor, with 8,000 men, will endeavor to open communications with you from Richmond.

To this communication General Pemberton replied, June 21, recommending me to move north of the railroad toward Vicksburg, to keep the enemy attracted to that side, and stating that he would himself move at the proper time by the Warrenton road, crossing the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry; that "the other roads are too strongly intrenched and the enemy in too heavy force for a reasonable prospect of success," unless I could compel him to abandon his communications by Snyder's.

On the 15th, I expressed to the Department the opinion that without some great blunder of the enemy we could not hold both Mississippi and Tennessee, and that I considered saving Vicksburg hopeless.

On the 18th, I said:

Grant's position, naturally very strong, is intrenched and protected by powerful artillery and the roads obstructed. His re-enforcements have been at least equal to my whole force. The Big Black covers him from attack, and would cut off our retreat if defeated.

On June 22, in reply to a dispatch from General Pemberton of the 15th, in which he said that, though living on greatly reduced rations, he had sufficient for twenty days, I informed him that General Taylor had been sent by General E. K. Smith to co-operate with him from the west bank of the Mississippi, and that in a day or two I would try to make a diversion in his favor, and, if possible, open communications, adding—

though I fear my force is too small to effect the latter. I have only two-thirds of the force you told Messenger Saunders to state to me as the least with which I ought to make an attempt. Scouts report the enemy fortifying toward us and the roads blocked.

A day or two after this, a dispatch was brought me from General Pemberton, dated June 22, suggesting that I should make to Grant "propositions to pass this army out, with all its arms and equipages," renewing his hope of my being able, by force of arms, to act with him, and expressing the opinion that he could hold out for fifteen days longer. To this dispatch I replied June 27, informing him that General E. K. Smith's troops had fallen back to Delhi, and that I had urged him to assume the direct command, and continued:

The determined spirit you manifest, and his expected co-operation, encourage me to hope that something may yet be done to save Vicksburg and to postpone both of the modes suggested of merely extricating the garrison. Negotiations with Grant for the relief of the garrison, should they become necessary, must be made by you. It would be a confession of weakness on my part, which I ought not to make, to propose them. When it becomes necessary to make terms, they may be considered as made under my authority.

On June 29, field transportation and other supplies having been obtained, the army marched toward the Big Black, and on the evening of July 1 encamped between Brownsville and the river.

Reconnaissances, which occupied the 2d and 3d, convinced me that attack north of the railroad was impracticable. I determined, therefore, to make the examinations necessary for the attempt south of the railroad; thinking, from what was already known, that the chance for suc-

cess was much better there, although the consequences of defeat might be more disastrous.

On the night of the 3d, a messenger was sent to General Pemberton with information that an attempt to create a diversion would be made to enable him to cut his way out, and that I hoped to attack the enemy about the 7th.

On the 5th, however, we learned the fall of Vicksburg, and therefore fell back to Jackson.

The army reached Jackson the evening of the 7th, and on the morning of the 9th the enemy appeared in heavy force in front of the works thrown up for the defense of the place. These, consisting of a line of rifle-pits, prepared at intervals for artillery, extended from a point north of the town, a little east of the Canton road, to a point south of the town, within a short distance of Pearl River, and covered most of the approaches west of the river; but were badly located and constructed, presenting but a slight obstacle to a vigorous assault. The troops promptly took their assigned positions in the intrenchments on the appearance of the enemy, in expectation of an immediate assault, Major-General Loring occupying the right, Major-General Walker the right of the center, Major-General French the left of the center, and Major-General Breckinridge the left. The cavalry, under Brigadier-General Jackson, was ordered to observe and guard the fords of Pearl River above and below the town. The reports that had at various times been made to me by the commanding officers of troops encamped near Jackson of the scarcity of water led me to believe that Sherman, who advanced in heavy order of battle from Clinton, could not besiege, but would be compelled to make an immediate assault. His force was represented to consist of his own and Ord's army corps and three divisions in addition. The spirit and confidence manifested by the whole army under my command was such that, notwithstanding this vast superiority of numbers, I felt assured, with the advantage given by the intrenchments, weak as they were, an assault by him would result in his discomfiture. Instead of attacking, the enemy as soon as they arrived commenced intrenching and constructing batteries.

On the 10th, there was spirited skirmishing, with slight cannonading continuing throughout the day. This was kept up with varying intensity and but little interruption until the period of our evacuation. Hills commanding and encircling the town within easy cannon-range offered favorable sites for batteries. A cross-fire of shot and shell reached all parts of the town, showing the position to be entirely untenable against a powerful artillery.

On the 11th, I telegraphed the President:

> If the position and works were not bad, want of stores (which could not be collected) would make it impossible to stand a siege. If the enemy will not attack, we must, or at the last moment withdraw. We cannot attack seriously without risking the army.

On the 12th, besides the usual skirmishing, there was a heavy cannonade from the batteries near the Canton and south of the Clinton roads. The missiles reached all parts of the town. An assault, though not a vigorous one, was also made on Major-General Breckinridge's line. It was quickly repelled, however, principally by the direct fire of Cobb's and Slocomb's batteries and flank attack of the skirmishers of the First, Third, and Fourth Florida and Forty-seventh Georgia Regiments. The enemy's loss was 200 prisoners, nearly the same number killed, many wounded, and the colors of the Twenty-eighth, Forty-first, and Fifty-third Illinois Regiments.

By the 13th, the enemy had extended his lines until both his flanks rested on Pearl River.

I telegraphed the President on the 14th that a large force lately left Vicksburg—

to turn us on the north. This will compel us to abandon Jackson. The troops before us have been intrenching and constructing batteries since their arrival.

On the 15th, I telegraphed the President:

The enemy is evidently making a siege which we cannot resist. It would be madness to attack him. The remainder of the army under Grant at Vicksburg is beyond doubt on its way to this place.

On the 16th of July, information was received that a large train from Vicksburg, loaded with ammunition, was near the enemy's camp. This and the condition of their batteries made it probable that Sherman would on the next day concentrate upon us the fire of nearly two hundred guns. It was also reported that the enemy had crossed Pearl River in rear of their left flank. The evacuation of Jackson that night was therefore determined on.

Our withdrawal was effected on the night of the 16th. All public property, and the sick and wounded, except a few not in a condition to be moved, had been previously carried to the rear. The right wing retired toward Brandon by the new Brandon road and the left wing by the old Brandon road. The cavalry remained to destroy the bridges over Pearl River and observe the enemy. The evacuation was not discovered by the enemy until the next day.

Our loss during the siege was estimated at 71 killed, 504 wounded, and about 25 missing.

The army retired by easy marches to Morton, distant about 35 miles from Jackson. Desertions during the siege and on the march were, I regret to say, frequent.

Two divisions of the enemy, with cavalry, drove our cavalry through Brandon on the 19th, returning to Jackson the next day. Their object seemed to be to destroy the railroad bridges and depots.

Col. J. L. Logan, commanding a mounted force around Port Hudson, reported three successful engagements with detachments of the enemy.

On July 12, I received information from Colonel Logan of the surrender of Port Hudson on the 9th. Subsequently the report of Major [C. M.] Jackson, acting assistant inspector-general, was received, informing me of the surrender. That officer stated that provision was exhausted, and that the position of the enemy rendered it impossible for the garrison to cut its way out. But 2,500 of the garrison were fit for duty at the time of surrender.

The enemy advanced against Yazoo City both by land and water on the 13th. The attack by the gunboats was handsomely repulsed by our heavy battery, under the command of Commander Isaac N. Brown, of the Navy. The De Kalb, the flag-ship of the hostile squadron, an iron-clad, mounting thirteen guns, was sunk by a torpedo. To the force advancing by land no resistance was made by the garrison, commanded by Colonel [William B.] Creasman, of the Twenty-ninth North Carolina Regiment.

I have introduced my dispatch of May 14 into this report because General Pemberton, after stating that it was not received until after the battle of Baker's Creek, claims that, although he had not acted on those instructions, the letter suggested the very movement he had made and for the same purpose. When the enemy was at Jackson, the letter suggested a movement for the sole purpose of dislodging him, and so

stated. General Pemberton's march, with whatever purpose made, was begun after the enemy had abandoned Jackson and was almost in his presence.

My order of the 15th, at which time I should have joined General Pemberton to take immediate command of the main army, but that I was still too weak to attempt such a ride, which was received by him very early on the morning of the 16th, required him to abandon that movement. Had he obeyed it, the battle of Baker's Creek would have been escaped.

About the middle of January, finding the cavalry in Mississippi inactive, and being satisfied by the representations of well-informed persons acquainted with the country that it could not be usefully employed in Mississippi until late in the spring, and persuaded that a larger cavalry force was needed to cover that portion of Tennessee from which General Bragg was drawing his supplies, I transferred about two-thirds of the cavalry of Mississippi to Tennessee. By this transfer from Mississippi, at a time when Grant had fallen back on Memphis, and Sherman and McClernand had been repulsed at Vicksburg, I gave strength to the Army of Tennessee, which had been greatly reduced by the engagements near Murfreesborough, and enabled General Bragg to cover the country and secure supplies for his army.

About March 20, General Pemberton applied for cavalry for the protection of the northern part of the State during the planting season, but his reports, heretofore referred to, indicated that the enemy's forces were to be employed in Tennessee rather than in Mississippi; and Van Dorn's cavalry being then absolutely necessary to hold the country from which General Bragg was drawing his supplies, I would not send it, and so informed General Pemberton. When he reported that Grant's army was returning to Mississippi, a strong brigade of cavalry was ordered from Tennessee into that State.

The time to strike the enemy with the best hope of saving Vicksburg was when he was landing near Bruinsburg. To do this with any prospect of success, a rapid concentration of all the forces should have been made and an attack. Under this conviction, I telegraphed to General Pemberton on May 1, from Tullahoma:

> If Grant's army land on this side of the river, the safety of Mississippi depends on beating it. For that object you should unite your whole force.

And again on May 2:

> If Grant crosses, unite your whole force to beat him. Success will give back what was abandoned to win it.

These instructions were neglected, and time was given to Grant to gain a foothold in the State. At Port Gibson and Raymond detachments of our troops were defeated and driven back by overwhelming numbers of the enemy.

On the 13th, when I learned that there were four divisions of the enemy at Clinton, distant 20 miles from the main body of General Pemberton's forces, I gave him orders to attack them, and notified him that we could co-operate. This order General Pemberton disobeyed, and so reported to me in his letter of the 17th. It directed him to move 20 miles to the east, to co-operate with me in attacking Sherman. He moved to the south, and made our co-operation and junction impossible. He claims that this order compelled him to make the advance beyond the Big Black, which proved so disastrous. Before I had reached Jackson, and before the order was given, General Pemberton made his first advance beyond (east of) the Big Black, to Edwards Depot. After the receipt

of the order, in violation of it, he made his second and last advance from that point to the field of Baker's Creek. He further claims that this order caused the subversion of his "matured plans." I do not know what these plans were, but am startled to find "matured plans" given up for a movement in violation of my orders, rejected by the majority of his council of war, and disapproved (as he states) by himself.

On the 12th, he wrote me that, if he could collect force enough, Edwards Depot would be the battle-field. The battle of Baker's Creek was fought 3 or 4 miles from Edwards Depot. The presence of the enemy was reported to him the night before. There was no apparent obstacle to prevent his resuming his original position and carrying out his "matured plans."

It is a new military principle that, when an officer disobeys a positive order of his superior, that superior becomes responsible for any measure his subordinate may choose to substitute for that ordered; but had the battle of Baker's Creek not been fought, General Pemberton's belief that Vicksburg was his base rendered his ruin inevitable. He would still have been besieged, and, therefore, captured. The larger force he would have carried into the lines would have added to, and hastened, the catastrophe. His disasters were due not merely to his entangling himself with the advancing columns of a superior and unobserved enemy, but to his evident determination to be besieged in Vicksburg, instead of maneuvering to prevent a siege.

Convinced of the impossibility of collecting a sufficient force to break the investment of Vicksburg should it be completed, appreciating the difficulty of extricating the garrison, and convinced that Vicksburg and Port Hudson had lost most of their value by the repeated passage of armed vessels and transports, I ordered the evacuation of both places. General Gardner did not receive this order before the investment of Port Hudson, if at all. General Pemberton set aside this order under the advice of a council of war, and, though he had in Vicksburg 8,000 fresh troops, not demoralized by defeat, decided that it "was impossible to withdraw the army from this position with such *morale* and material as to be of further service to the Confederacy," but "to hold Vicksburg as long as possible, with the firm hope that the Government may yet be able to assist me in keeping this obstruction to the enemy's free navigation of the Mississippi River." Vicksburg was greatly imperiled when my instructions from Tullahoma to concentrate were neglected. It was lost when my orders of May 13 and 15 were disobeyed. To this loss were added the labor, privations, and certain capture of a gallant army when my orders for its evacuation were set aside.

In this report I have been compelled to enter into many details and to make some animadversions upon the conduct of General Pemberton. The one was no pleasant task; the other a most painful duty. Both have been forced upon me by the official report of General Pemberton, made to the War Department instead of to me, to whom it was due.

General Pemberton, by direct assertion and by implication, puts upon me the responsibility of the movements which led his army to defeat at Baker's Creek and the Big Black Bridge; defeats which produced the loss of Vicksburg and its army.

This statement has been circulated by the press in more or less detail, and with more or less marks of an official character, until my silence would be almost an acknowledgment of the justice of the charge.

A proper regard for the good opinion of my Government has compelled me, therefore, to throw aside that delicacy which I would gladly have observed toward a brother officer suffering much undeserved obloquy,

and to show that in his short campaign General Pemberton made not a single movement in obedience to my orders and regarded none of my instructions, and, finally, did not embrace the only opportunity to save his army—that given by my order to abandon Vicksburg.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

MERIDIAN, *December* 6, 1863.

Maj. A. P. MASON, *Richmond, Va.:*

Amend my report by inserting after "force," in the paragraph beginning "Small as was this force," the words "about 24,000 infantry and artillery."* Leave the remainder of the paragraph as it is now.

J. E. JOHNSTON.

No. 11.

Reports of Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana, of operations April 4–July 4.

HEADQUARTERS,
Gainesville, Ala., August 25, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward, by the hands of my aide-de-camp (Lieut. J. H. Morrison), my report of the operations previous to and during the siege of Vicksburg, together with the reports of subordinate commanders and Appendices A, B, and C. The report is, necessarily, very voluminous, but as brief as I could make it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.

P. S.—I leave to-morrow morning for Demopolis; thence to Atlanta.

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS,
Gainesville, Ala., August 2, 1863.

GENERAL: At the earliest moment compatible with the performance of other and very pressing duties, I have the honor to present the following report of the operations of the troops in the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana preceding and during the siege resulting in the capitulation of Vicksburg:

The enemy, after long-continued and strenuous efforts to reach the right flank of Vicksburg by forcing a passage through the Upper Yazoo River, finally relinquished his design, and on the night of April 4 and 5 re-embarked his troops, and before daylight was in rapid retreat. About the same time a heavy force of the enemy, which had been collected at Baton Rouge, was mostly withdrawn and transferred to Western Louis-

* See p. 242.

iana, leaving but one division to occupy that place. After consultation by telegraph with Major-General Gardner, commanding Port Hudson and the Third Military District, deeming the garrison at Port Hudson more than sufficient under existing circumstances, and to save supplies at a point so difficult to provide, the navigation of the Mississippi River being then obstructed to us, and the mouth of Red River, from whence large quantities of subsistence stores were drawn, being blockaded by one of the enemy's gunboats, I ordered [A.] Rust's brigade and two regiments, under Brigadier-General [A.] Buford, to proceed immediately to Jackson, Miss., with the then view of employing them against raids of the enemy in Northern Mississippi, my great deficiency in cavalry leaving that portion of the department almost without protection.

About March 11, fearing that the enemy might succeed in opening a canal practicable for the passage of transports across the peninsula opposite Vicksburg, I deemed it necessary to occupy Grand Gulf, near the mouth of the Big Black, and assigned Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, with his Missouri brigade, to that point, with instructions to construct batteries for the protection of the mouth of the Big Black, and as a secondary obstacle to the navigation of the Mississippi River. General Bowen was also directed to look well to the approaches by the Bayou Pierre. He subsequently informed me that he had prepared for the defense on both sides of the bayou.

On the 22d, five heavy guns were mounted and ready for service. Two of these were removed from the batteries at Vicksburg, and three, intended for gunboats being built in the Trans-Mississippi Department, were detained by my order, it being impracticable to obtain them elsewhere. At the same time the enemy commenced his movement to reach Vicksburg by the Hushpuckanaw and Deer Creek. Another expedition was also attempted through Steele's Bayou via Rolling Fork and the Sunflower, the object of both being to enter the Yazoo River above Haynes' Bluff. In these designs he was completely baffled. Many of our smaller boats, which were alone fitted for the navigation of these streams, and which were employed in the transportation of supplies for Vicksburg, were necessarily diverted from this purpose to transport troops to meet and repel these expeditions. The same interruption in the transportation of supplies was also of constant occurrence during the protracted expedition via the Yazoo Pass.

On April 7, I received a telegram from the President, inquiring as to the practicability of sending re-enforcements to General Bragg in Middle Tennessee, and directing me to send them if existing circumstances in the department would admit of it.

On the same day I informed the President by telegram that, in my judgment, it was not safe to diminish the forces in this department at that time.

On April 9, I telegraphed General S. Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General, as follows:

I am confident that few re-enforcements, if any, have been sent to Rosecrans from Grant; no troops whatever are reported to have gone above the mouth of the Yazoo Pass. I endeavor to keep General [J. E.] Johnston advised of any movement which may affect his army. The enemy is constantly in motion in all directions. He appears now to be particularly engaged with Deer Creek by land from Greenville. I have forces there to meet him. It is reported, but not yet confirmed, that a movement under McClernand in large force, by land, is in progress west of the river and southward. I doubt it. My operations west of the Mississippi must greatly depend on the movement of the enemy's gunboats. I have several regiments now near New Carthage. I will inform you promptly of anything important, and if I ascertain that part of Grant's army is re-enforcing Rosecrans, will dispatch troops to General Johnston as rapidly as possible.

On April 11, I again telegraphed General Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General, and General J. E. Johnston, at Tullahoma, as follows:

A scout from Austin reports that forty transports, loaded down, but without troops, passed up the Mississippi River on the 3d and 4th instant.

Brigadier-General Chalmers reports that—

Ellet's Marine Brigade passed up the Mississippi on the 7th. The same evening three gunboats and nineteen transports loaded with troops passed up, the last ten boats from Tallahatchee, 20 miles up Coldwater, on Wednesday, going up. I think that most of Grant's forces are being withdrawn to Memphis.

On the same day I again telegraphed General Johnston as follows:

The following report just received: Scout Kemp reports, "Near Byhalia, on the 10th, the enemy is strengthening his guard on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Twelve thousand troops passed Memphis going up the river on the 7th. The same day fifty pieces of artillery were landed at Memphis and taken to the Memphis and Charleston depot. Part of Grant's army reported to be going to Corinth and down the Mobile and Ohio Railroad; the balance to re-enforce Rosecrans."

Lawson reports near Memphis, 10th—

Marine Brigade gone up the Cumberland River; also fourteen transports and two gunboats passed up the river. On the night of the 7th, a corps of engineers reached Memphis from below.

Acting on these and other corroborating reports, I said to General Johnston, in closing my dispatch, "I am collecting troops here, and can send you 4,000 at once, if absolutely necessary;" and accordingly the brigades of Generals Tilghman, Rust, and Buford were, on April 13, placed under orders to move with dispatch to Tullahoma, while General Vaughn's brigade of East Tennesseeans was ordered to be held in readiness to move at short notice. Maj. L. Mims, chief quartermaster, was instructed to furnish the necessary transportation as speedily as possible, and the following dispatch, dated April 12, was transmitted to General Johnston:

I will forward troops to you as fast as transportation can be furnished—about 8,000 men. Am satisfied Rosecrans will be re-enforced from Grant's army. Shall I order troops to Tullahoma?

On April 15, statements made by persons just out of Memphis, of which I was notified by telegraph, indicated that the retrograde movement from Vicksburg was probably a ruse, and that an early attack might be expected on that place; and on the 16th I telegraphed General Johnston thus:

I can send you only two brigades. The latest information induces the belief that no large part of Grant's army will be removed.

On the same day General Stevenson was directed to delay the movement of [J. C.] Vaughn's brigade, and on the 17th Major Mims, chief quartermaster, was instructed that no more troops would be forwarded in the direction of Tullahoma until further orders. General Tilghman's brigade was held in position between Jackson and the Big Black Bridge, and on the same day the following telegram was dispatched to General Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General:

General Stevenson reports that eight boats attempted to pass Vicksburg last night; five succeeded in passing, one was burned and sunk, and two disabled. General Chalmers reports sixty-four steamers left Memphis on the 15th instant, loaded with troops and negroes, apparently with intention of making an assault on Vicksburg. The enemy has nine boats between Vicksburg and Port Hudson. I cannot send any more troops, and think that those on the way to General Johnston should come back.

General Bowen, at Grand Gulf, was immediately advised of the passage of the boats referred to in the above dispatch, and instructed to

withdraw his troops from the Louisiana shore at the first favorable opportunity. He was also immediately re-enforced by the Sixth Mississippi Regiment, the First Confederate Battalion, and a field battery.

On the same day the following telegram was dispatched to General Johnston:

The troops sent you were taken from Port Hudson—a brigade, under Brigadier-General Buford, aggregate present 4,065. The enemy has nine boats between Vicksburg and Port Hudson. He has landed forces at New Carthage from Grant's army, and can re-enforce them to any extent. He can use his nine boats to cross his troops to this side. The arrival of General Lorenzo Thomas has changed the enemy's plans, or his movement up the river was a ruse. I ought to have back Buford's brigade; certainly no more troops should leave this department. A dispatch from Brigadier-General Chalmers yesterday says sixty-four boats left Memphis since Thursday, loaded with soldiers and negroes, ostensibly to assault Vicksburg.

The raft in the Yazoo at Snyder's Mill has given away, and is entirely destroyed. I am, therefore, compelled to strengthen the batteries there at the expense of Vicksburg.

General Stevenson reports that eight boats passed the Bend last night. One was burned and two apparently disabled; the other five escaped uninjured.

Indications of an attack on Vicksburg are so strong that I am not warranted in sending any more troops from this department.

From information received after this dispatch was sent, I learned that eight of the enemy's most formidable gunboats, besides his transports and barges, succeeded in passing safely on the 16th.

I found it a very difficult matter to obtain the necessary hawsers and chains for the raft in the Yazoo, but it was speedily replaced under the active and energetic supervision of Mr. Thomas Weldon.

My request for the return of the troops forwarded to Middle Tennessee to re-enforce General Bragg was immediately complied with. A portion of them, however, had reached Chattanooga; the remainder were halted by telegraph at various points on the route, and the whole were restored to this department as soon as was practicable.

The enemy's vessels of war occupying the river between Vicksburg and Grand Gulf, it was impossible for me to operate effectually in the Trans-Mississippi Department to prevent the advance of the enemy to the west bank of the river.

On April 17, therefore, I addressed the following telegraphic communication to Capt. E. Powell, assistant quartermaster at Natchez:

Forward the following to Lieutenant-General Smith or Major-General Taylor, viz:

"For the want of the necessary transportation, I cannot operate effectually on the west bank of the river; the enemy is now in force at New Carthage and Richmond. I beg your attention to this."

Captain Powell notified me at once that this dispatch had been forwarded by courier.

On the 18th, I addressed a second communication, through the same medium, as follows:

Lieutenant-General SMITH or
Major-General TAYLOR:

The enemy are cutting a passage from near Young's Point to Bayou Vidal, to reach the Mississippi River near New Carthage. Without co-operation it is impossible to oppose him. Inform me what action you intend to take.

To these communications, and to a subsequent one of April 22, I received no reply until after the capitulation of Vicksburg, when an acknowledgment of the receipt of that of the 22d, dated May 20, reached me.

On the 19th, reports of raids in Northern Mississippi from several points in Tennessee reached me. All the available cavalry north of the Southern Railroad was at once placed at the disposal of Brigadier-Gen-

erals Ruggles and Chalmers, commanding, respectively, the First and Fifth Military Districts, which embraced all the northern portion of the State of Mississippi, and both were notified of the expected raids. Two companies of cavalry of Waul's Legion alone were ordered to report to Brigadier-General Barton at Warrenton. One of these marauding expeditions, under Colonel [Brigadier-General] Grierson, which crossed the Tallahatchee River at New Albany, succeeded in passing directly through the State, and eventually joined General Banks' forces at Baton Rouge, La. So great was the consternation created by this raid that it was impossible to obtain any reliable information of the enemy's movements, rumor placing him in various places at the same time.

On the 20th, I addressed the following telegram to General Johnston:

Can you not make a heavy demonstration with cavalry on the Tallahatchee toward Abbeville, if only for 50 miles? The enemy are endeavoring to compel a diversion of my troops to Northern Mississippi.

The same day the following communication was addressed to General Johnston, in response to one from him, asking if I could not send reenforcements to the assistance of Colonel [P. D.] Roddey:

I have not sufficient force to give any efficient assistance to Colonel Roddey. The enemy are advancing from Memphis via Herndon, from Grand Junction and La Grange via Holly Springs and Salem, and from Corinth via New Albany. You are aware that I have but a feeble cavalry force, but I shall certainly give you all the aid I can. I have literally no cavalry from Grand Gulf to Yazoo City, while the enemy is threatening to pass the river between Vicksburg and Grand Gulf, having now twelve vessels below the former place. A gunboat and one transport passed Austin on the 18th, having in tow fifteen flat-boats, or pontoons, with twenty-five skiffs on them. Another transport passed Austin on the 19th, towing sixteen flats, or pontoons.

Brigadier-General Ruggles was directed to send all his available cavalry, both Confederate and State, at once toward Corinth, as a diversion in favor of Colonel Roddey; General Johnston having informed me that a superior force of the enemy from Corinth was in front of Roddey at Tuscumbia, and desiring me, if possible, to send aid to the latter. Having no available cavalry to meet the raid of Grierson, which was ravaging the northern portion of the State, I endeavored to employ a portion of Buford's brigade (infantry), then returning to the department, and directed the commanding officer of the first regiment, on his arrival at Meridian, to remain until further orders, to protect the most important points on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and thereby succeeded in saving the valuable property, machinery, &c., at Enterprise, upon which town the enemy advanced and demanded its surrender, but Major-General Loring having reached there with a sufficient force of infantry in time, their object was frustrated. The enemy had previously succeeded in destroying several miles of the track of the Southern Railroad west of Chunkey River, which for more than a week greatly delayed the transportation of troops, and entirely prevented that of supplies (except by wagons) from our depots on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

To meet these raids as far as possible, Major-General Loring was placed in command of all the troops then on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. He was directed not to leave the line of the road for any great distance, to keep in telegraphic communication with me, and constantly to advise me of his position, and that, operations upon that line being minor in importance to those upon the Mississippi River, his troops must be so disposed as to enable him to move them in that direction at a moment's notice. The same day the following communication was addressed to General Johnston at Tullahoma:

Heavy raids are making from Tennessee deep into this State. One is reported now

at Starkville, 30 miles west of Columbus. Cavalry is indispensable to meet these expeditions. The little that I have is on the field there, but totally inadequate. Could you not make a demonstration with a cavalry force on their rear?

Another expedition having been reported moving across the country in a southwesterly direction from Pontotoc, Brigadier-General Featherston, then commanding Fort Pemberton, on the Yazoo, was ordered to move without delay toward Duck Hill or Winona, and General Tilghman, then at Canton, was directed to hold trains in readiness to move to Winona at a moment's notice. This became more necessary, as a heavy column of infantry as well as cavalry was reported moving from Memphis with the supposed view of taking possession of Grenada. The same day the following communication was telegraphed to General Cooper, Adjutant and Inspector General:

I have so little cavalry that I am compelled to divert a portion of my infantry to meet raids in Northern Mississippi. If any troops can possibly be spared from other departments, I think they should be sent here.

Every effort was made by me to provide cavalry to arrest Grierson's raid; also to accumulate a force for operations in the direction of Warrenton and Grand Gulf, thinking it quite as probable that Grierson would return by the route on which he was advancing as that he would continue his progress southward.

On the 24th, Brigadier-General Chalmers, at Panola, was directed to move, with all his cavalry and light artillery, via Oxford, to Okolona, to intercept the force of the enemy then at Newton Station, on the Southern Railroad. Captain [Samuel] Henderson, commanding special scouts at Grenada, was also instructed to send couriers to Generals Loring, Buford, and Ruggles, notifying those officers by telegrams from the nearest telegraph office, and advising each station on the road, that the enemy had reached Newton, on the Southern road. A force was also ordered to proceed from Jackson to Forrest, or Lake Station, or to such other points as circumstances might render necessary. Major-General Gardner, at Port Hudson, was notified that the enemy had reached the Southern Railroad—that it was probable he would endeavor to form a junction with Banks at Baton Rouge—and was instructed to send all his disposable cavalry to intercept him. Brigadier-General Featherston, with his brigade, then at or *en route* for Winona, was ordered to move to Grenada, if there was any approach of the enemy (as was reported) from the north on that place, unless he was also threatened by an advance from the east. As it was possible that Grierson's forces might return by Jackson, such arrangements as my means allowed were made to defend the capital of the State. Brigadier-General Tilghman, then at Canton, was authorized to mount one of his regiments at that place, by the impressment of horses or otherwise, and immediate steps were taken to mount the Twentieth Mississippi and a detachment of the Fourteenth Mississippi, both of these regiments being at the time on duty in Jackson. Similar authority was given to General Loring, then on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, to mount what force he could on that line. In the impressment of horses, and their necessary equipments, Maj. L. Mims, chief quartermaster, was materially aided by His Excellency the Governor of Mississippi, who was also earnestly advised to mount by the same process a portion of the State troops in Northern Mississippi. All the cavalry I could thus collect south of the Southern Railroad was placed under the orders of Col. R. V. Richardson until he should fall in with Col. Wirt Adams, who was then directed to assume command and direct the movements of the whole.

On the 28th. it was ascertained that Grierson was continuing his movement south of Hazlehurst, and not toward Grand Gulf or the Big Black Bridge. Colonel [Wirt] Adams was directed to follow him up and ambuscade him, if possible. These instructions were carried out as far as practicable, and resulted in a smart skirmish near Union Church. Colonel Adams' force, however, was too weak to effect anything important. Grierson, after suffering considerable loss by an ambuscade farther south, which was well planned and executed by a cavalry force from Major-General Gardner's command, eventually succeeded in joining General Banks' army at Baton Rouge.

I have been thus circumstantial in reciting the incidents connected with this celebrated raid that I might clearly demonstrate the great deficiency—I may almost say absence—of cavalry in my department, and the absolute impossibility of protecting my communications, depots, and even my most vital positions, without it; and, further, to show that consequent upon this want of cavalry I was compelled to employ infantry, and thus weaken my force in that arm at other important points. I wrote to General Johnston on March 25, urgently requesting that the division of cavalry under Major-General Van Dorn, which had been sent to the Army of Tennessee for special and temporary purposes, might be returned to me.

Under date of Tullahoma, April 3, Col. B. S. Ewell, assistant adjutant-general, replied to my request, and from that reply I make the following extract:

> In the present aspect of affairs, General Van Dorn's cavalry is much more needed in this department than in that of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana, and cannot be sent back as long as this state of things exists. You have now in your department five brigades of the troops you most require, viz, infantry, belonging to the Army of Tennessee. This is more than a compensation for the absence of General Van Dorn's cavalry command.

I will terminate this subject with the following telegram, addressed to General Johnston at Tullahoma on April 27:

> However necessary cavalry may be to the army in Tennessee, it is indispensable for me to maintain my communications. The enemy are to-day at Hazlehurst, on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad. I cannot defend every station on the roads with infantry. I am compelled to bring cavalry here from Northern Mississippi, and thus the whole of that section of the State is left open; further, these raids endanger my vital positions.

When it seemed probable that the enemy would succeed in opening a navigable canal across the peninsula opposite Vicksburg, and thus to a great extent avoid the batteries established there, I directed that Grand Gulf should be occupied, and as many heavy guns placed in position as could be without too much weakening the defenses of Vicksburg. Believing that the urgency of the case demanded it, I assumed the responsibility of detaining three heavy guns *en route* for the Trans-Mississippi Department, and withdrew two others from the batteries at Vicksburg. Insufficient as I knew this battery to be, it was the heaviest I could place there.

Fort Pemberton, on the Tallahatchee, then occupied our attention. The enemy in large force, by land and water, was exerting all his energies against that position, with the view of turning the right flank of Vicksburg, and every available gun was required for its defense. This necessity continued to exist until the fall of the rivers rendered an approach by water impracticable.

Grand Gulf was not selected as a position for land defense, but for the protection of the mouth of the Big Black, and also as a precaution-

ary measure against the passage of transports, should the canal before referred to prove a success, which then seemed highly probable. The necessary works were, however, constructed, under the direction of Brigadier-General Bowen, to defend the batteries against an assault from the river front and against a direct attack from or across Big Black. When, however, the enemy succeeded in passing sufficient transports to cross his troops from the west bank of the river below Grand Gulf, there being a practicable route by which to move his land forces from above Vicksburg to a point nearly opposite Bruinsburg, the position of Grand Gulf itself lost most of its value; but so great were his facilities of transportation and so rapid his movements that it was impracticable to withdraw the heavy guns. The only means of subsisting an army south of Big Black are from Vicksburg or Jackson, the former requiring a transportation by dirt road of 40 and the latter of 45 miles, in addition to that by rail. Without cavalry I could not have protected my own communications, much less have cut those of the enemy. To have marched an army across Big Black of sufficient strength to warrant a reasonable hope of successfully encountering his very superior forces would have stripped Vicksburg and its essential flank defenses of their garrisons, and the city itself might have fallen an easy prey into the eager hands of the enemy.

The enemy having succeeded, on the night of April 16 (as heretofore related), in passing the batteries at Vicksburg with a number of his gunboats and transports, and the report of a heavy movement to the southward on the Louisiana shore being fully confirmed, I immediately made the necessary dispositions for more perfectly guarding all points between Vicksburg and Grand Gulf, and re-enforced Brigadier-General Bowen with Green's brigade, the Sixth Mississippi Regiment, the First Confederate Battalion, and a battery of field artillery. Other troops were collected on the line of the railroad between Jackson and the Big Black Bridge, and measures were taken to get the troops that were being returned from Middle Tennessee into such positions that they could be readily moved at a moment's notice. Major-General Stevenson was directed to place 5,000 men in easy supporting distance of Warrenton, in addition to the brigade already there. Major [Samuel H.] Lockett, my chief engineer, was sent to Grand Gulf.

On the 22d, I addressed a communication to Lieut. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, acknowledging the receipt of one from him of the 15th asking my co-operation on the west side of the Mississippi, and stating my inability to do so because of the enemy's gunboats in the river and from want of transportation, and again asking his co-operation in front of Grand Gulf and New Carthage.

The following telegram was addressed to Major-General Stevenson on the 23d:

I consider it essential that communications, at least for infantry, should be made by the shortest practicable route to Grand Gulf. The indications now are that the attack will not be made on your front or right, and all troops not absolutely necessary to hold the works at Vicksburg should be held as a movable force for either Warrenton or Grand Gulf.

On the 28th, Brigadier-General Bowen telegraphed that "transports and barges loaded down with troops are landing at Hard Times, on the west bank."

I immediately replied as follows:

Have you force enough to hold your position? If not, give me the smallest additional number with which you can. My small cavalry force necessitates the use of infantry to protect important points.

Major-General Loring, then at Meridian, was ordered to send two of his regiments across the break on the Southern Railroad, near Chunkey River, and Colonels [M.] Farrell and [A. E.] Reynolds, who were west of the break, were ordered to proceed immediately to Jackson. Major-General Buckner, commanding at Mobile, was notified that I should look to him to assist me in protecting the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, as I required all the troops I could spare to strengthen General Bowen. Major-General Gardner, at Port Hudson, was also ordered to move Gregg's brigade rapidly to Jackson. Brigadier-General Tilghman, then on the Mississippi Central Railroad, was directed to move promptly with all of his troops (save bridge guards) to Jackson. Major [M. R.] Clark, commanding at Brookhaven, was instructed to send couriers to all cavalry commanders near him, ordering them to move toward Grand Gulf, with directions not to encounter the main body of the enemy, but to harass him in the rear and flank. Similar instructions were forwarded to Osyka and Hazlehurst. To General Johnston, at Tullahoma, the following telegram was sent:

The enemy is at Hard Times, La., in large force, with barges and transports, indicating an attack on Grand Gulf, with a view to Vicksburg. I must look to the Army of Tennessee to protect the approaches through Northern Mississippi.

The following also to Major-General Stevenson at Vicksburg:

Hold 5,000 men in readiness to move to Grand Gulf, and on the requisition of Brigadier-General Bowen move them. With your batteries and rifle-pits manned, the city front is impregnable.

To General Bowen, at the same time, the following was sent:

I have directed General Stevenson to have 5,000 men ready to move on your requisition, but do not make requisition unless absolutely necessary for the safety of your position. I am also making arrangements for sending you 2,000 or 3,000 men from this direction in case of necessity. You cannot communicate with me too frequently.

I believe that I fully estimated the importance of preventing an advance upon Jackson, if it could be done without sacrificing Vicksburg; but if the latter was lost, the former was comparatively of little value. Vicksburg might still be held with Jackson in possession of the enemy, but it was the hope of being able to hold the position on Bayou Pierre, upon which the safety of Jackson depends, that made me most anxious to re-enforce General Bowen, or, failing in that, at least to have a sufficient force at hand to secure his retreat across the Big Black.

On April 30, I received the first information of the landing of the enemy on the east bank of the Mississippi River. General Bowen reported by telegraph that 3,000 Federal troops were at Bethel Church, 10 miles from Port Gibson, at 3 o'clock on the evening of the 29th, and that they were still landing at Bruinsburg. Brigadier-General Tracy, of Stevenson's division, had reached Grand Gulf with his brigade on the 30th. Lieutenant-Colonel [William N.] Brown, of the Twentieth Mississippi, with 50 mounted men of his regiment, left Jackson for the same place on the 29th, and Maj. J. D. Bradford, a good artillery officer, was sent to replace the lamented Colonel [William] Wade, as chief of artillery.

Between 12 m. and 2 p. m. on the 30th, Brigadier-General Baldwin, with his brigade, of Smith's division, had crossed the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry.

At 9 a. m. May 1, General Bowen informed me by telegraph, his army being then in position 3 miles south of Port Gibson, that General Baldwin was entering the latter place. On the same day General Bowen telegraphed me that prisoners taken reported McClernand in

command; that three divisions had landed, one of which took the right-hand road from Rodney, and that the enemy's force was estimated at 20,000 men. He adds, however, "I disbelieve the report." At 3 p. m. the same day, General Bowen advised me that he still held his position, but that he was hard pressed, and concluded by asking when Major-General Loring would arrive. In reply, he was notified by telegram that another brigade from Vicksburg was *en route* to re-enforce him, and would probably reach him before Major-General Loring could arrive from Jackson. At 5.30 p. m. he informed me that he was falling back across the Bayou Pierre, and that he would endeavor to hold that position until the arrival of re-enforcements. On reaching Rocky Springs, about 18 miles from Grand Gulf, Major-General Loring, learning that Brigadier-General Bowen had fallen back before a large force from Port Gibson in the direction of Grand Gulf, directed two regiments and a field battery of Tilghman's brigade, which had been withdrawn from the Big Black Bridge, to move as rapidly as possible to Grindstone Ford, and hold it at all hazards, to prevent the enemy from flanking Bowen in that direction, and then proceeded himself to the headquarters of General Bowen, near Grand Gulf. Major-General Loring, concurring with General Bowen as to the impracticability of holding his position with so small a force, directed its withdrawal across Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry.

In his official report Major-General Loring says:

> This had hardly been determined upon, when your communication was received, stating that the army had fallen back toward Grand Gulf, and ordering it to move at once out of its position, and to cross the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry.

The movement was promptly carried out. Previous to crossing the river, however, Col. A. W. Reynolds' brigade, of Stevenson's division, had arrived. Not having heard from General Bowen after 5.30 p. m. on the 1st instant, I dispatched him, via Rocky Springs, on the morning of the 2d, as follows:

> If you are holding your position on the Bayou Pierre, and your communication is open by the Big Black to this place, continue to hold it. I am informed that you have fallen back to Grand Gulf. If this is so, carry out my instructions, just sent in cipher.

These instructions were, in case he had fallen back to Grand Gulf, which is a *cul-de-sac*, to destroy his heavy guns and such stores as could not be transported, and endeavor to retire across the Big Black. The last brigade of Major-General Stevenson's division, which had been hurried forward to re-enforce Bowen, with the hope of enabling him to hold his position on the Bayou Pierre, or, in case he should be compelled to fall back, to protect his retreat, had not all arrived when the retiring column, under Major-General Loring, commenced crossing the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry.

For the details of the battle of Port Gibson, the list of casualties, &c., I beg to refer to the official report of Brigadier-General Bowen and the reports of his subordinate commanders, which I have the honor to transmit herewith,* as also the report of Major-General Loring, who commanded the retreat after the column had been put in motion by Brigadier-General Bowen.

Among the slain whom the country deplores I regret to mention Brig. Gen. E. D. Tracy, a brave and skillful officer, who fell where it is the soldier's pride to fall—at the post of duty and of danger.

Though disastrous in its results, the bloody encounter in front of Port

* See pp. 657 *et seq.*

Gibson nobly illustrated the valor and constancy of our troops, and shed additional luster upon the Confederate arms. Confronted by overwhelming numbers, the heroic Bowen and his gallant officers and men maintained the unequal contest for many hours with a courage and obstinacy rarely equaled, and though they failed to secure a victory, the world will do them the justice to say they deserved it. With a moderate cavalry force at my disposal, I am firmly convinced that the Federal Army under General Grant would have been unable to maintain its communications with the Mississippi River, and that the attempt to reach Jackson and Vicksburg from that base would have been as signally defeated in May, 1863, as a like attempt from another base had by the employment of cavalry been defeated in December, 1862.

The repulse of General Bowen at Port Gibson, and our consequent withdrawal to the north bank of the Big Black, rendered it necessary that I should as rapidly as possible concentrate my whole force for the defense of Vicksburg from an attack in the rear by Grant's army, which was hourly swelling its numbers. Orders, therefore, were immediately transmitted to the officers in command at Grenada, Columbus, and Jackson to move all available forces to Vicksburg as rapidly as possible.

On the morning of the 3d, two of the enemy's barges, loaded with hospital and commissary stores, were destroyed in attempting to pass the batteries at Vicksburg.

On the 5th, I telegraphed General Johnston that—

> Six thousand cavalry should be used to keep my communications open, and that the enemy advancing on me was double what I could bring into the field.

To the honorable Secretary of War I sent the following telegram, under date of May 6:

> General Beauregard sends but two brigades, perhaps not 5,000 men. This is a very insufficient number. The stake is a great one. I can see nothing so important.

On the 7th, the President notified me that all the assistance in his power to send should be forwarded, and that it was deemed necessary to hold Port Hudson as a means of keeping up our communications with the Trans-Mississippi Department. Major-General Gardner, who, with Brigadier-General Maxey and 5,000 men, had previously been ordered to Jackson to re-enforce this army, was immediately directed to send Maxey's brigade rapidly forward, and to return himself with 2,000 men to Port Hudson, and hold the place at all hazards.

On the 7th, indications rendered it probable that the enemy would make a raid on Jackson. The staff departments, therefore, and all valuable stores, were ordered to be removed east.

In the mean time my troops were so disposed as to occupy the Warrenton and Hall's Ferry road, which afforded great facilities for concentration, and various positions on the Baldwin's Ferry road, and from thence between Bovina and Edwards Depot, each division being in good supporting distance of the other. Colonel [T. N.] Waul, commanding Fort Pemberton, was directed to leave a garrison of 300 men at that place, and proceed with the remainder of his force to Snyder's Mill.

On the 10th, information was received from a scouting party that visited Cayuga and Utica, where the enemy had recently been, that his cavalry force was about 2,000, and that he was supposed to be moving on Vicksburg. My dispositions were made accordingly, and every effort was used to collect all the cavalry possible. Such as could be obtained were placed under the command of Col. Wirt Adams, who was directed to harass the enemy on his line of march, cut his communications wherever practicable, patrol the country thoroughly, and to keep Brigadier-

General Gregg (who had just arrived with his brigade from Port Hudson and was then at Raymond) fully advised of the enemy's movements.

On the 11th, Brig. Gen. John Adams, commanding at Jackson, was directed to hurry forward, as fast as they could arrive, the troops from South Carolina, to re-enforce Brigadier-General Gregg at Raymond. At this time information was received from Brigadier-General Tilghman that the enemy was in force opposite Baldwin's Ferry, and Gregg was notified accordingly, and informed that the enemy's movements were apparently toward the Big Black Bridge, and not, as had been supposed, against Jackson.

On the 12th, the following was addressed to Major-General Stevenson:

From information received, it is evident the enemy is advancing in force on Edwards Depot and Big Black Bridge; hot skirmishing has been going on all the morning, and the enemy are at Fourteen-Mile Creek. You must move up with your whole division to the support of Loring and Bowen at the bridge, leaving Baldwin's and Moore's brigades to protect your right.

In consequence of this information, Brigadier-General Gregg was ordered not to attack the enemy until he was engaged at Edwards or the bridge, but to be ready to fall on his rear or flank at any moment, and to be particularly cautious not to allow himself to be flanked or taken in the rear. Thus it will be seen that every measure had been taken to protect Edwards Depot and Big Black Bridge, and, by offering or accepting battle, to endeavor to preserve my communications with the east.

At this juncture, however, the battle of Raymond was fought by a large body of the enemy's forces and one brigade of our troops under the command of Brigadier-General Gregg.

I have received no official report of that affair, and hence cannot say how it was fought or by whom the engagement was brought on. Unofficial information represents Brigadier-General Gregg and his small command to have behaved with great gallantry and steadiness, but after an obstinate conflict of several hours they were finally overwhelmed by superior numbers and compelled to retire. The command was withdrawn in good order, and retired to Jackson.

On the 14th, a large body of the enemy made their appearance in front of Jackson, the capital of the State. After some fighting, our troops were withdrawn, and the enemy took possession of the place; but as General Johnston was commanding there in person, his official report, which has doubtless gone forward, will furnish all the information required.

On the 12th, the following telegram was sent to General J. E. Johnston:

The enemy is apparently moving his heavy force toward Edwards Depot, on Southern Railroad; with my limited force I will do all I can to meet him. That will be the battle-field if I can carry forward sufficient force, leaving troops enough to secure the safety of this place (Vicksburg). Re-enforcements are arriving very slowly, only 1,500 having arrived as yet. I urgently ask that more be sent; also that 3,000 cavalry be at once sent to operate on this line. I urge this as a positive necessity. The enemy largely outnumber me, and I am obliged to hold back a large force at the ferries on Big Black lest he cross and take this place. I am also compelled to keep considerable force on either flank of Vicksburg out of supporting distance.

The same dispatch was also sent to His Excellency President Davis on the same date.

The divisions of Major-Generals Loring and Stevenson moved from the line they had occupied between Warrenton and Big Black Bridge to Edwards Depot, General Stevenson being directed to keep well closed upon the rear of General Loring's column.

On the evening of the 12th, I moved my headquarters to Bovina, to be nearer the scene of active operations.

The command arrived at Edwards Depot on the 13th, and was placed in position, covering all approaches from the south and east, in the following order, viz: Bowen on the right, Loring in the center, and Stevenson on the left. This position was occupied from the night of the 13th until the morning of the 15th.

On the 13th, the following dispatch was sent to General Johnston:

General Forney reports from Vicksburg this morning four transports loaded with troops arrived at Young's Point this morning. Five regiments and a battery passed down by Brown & Johnston's. Wagon trains continue to pass back and forth. My re-enforcements will be very small and arrive very slowly. If possible, Port Hudson should also be re-enforced. I have been forced to draw largely from there. I have no major-general to command brigades arriving in Jackson. I am in position with eight brigades near Edwards Depot.

On the morning of the 14th, while on my way to Edwards Depot from Bovina, I received the following dispatch, dated May 13, from General Johnston, then at Jackson:

I have lately arrived, and learn that Major-General Sherman is between us, with four divisions, at Clinton. It is important to re-establish communications, that you may be re-enforced. If practicable, come up in his rear at once. To beat such a detachment would be of immense value. The troops here could co-operate. All the strength you can quickly assemble should be brought. Time is all-important.

I immediately replied as follows:

BOVINA, *May* 14, 1863.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication. I move at once with whole available force (about 16,000) from Edwards Depot, leaving Vaughn's brigade (about 1,500) at Big Black Bridge. Tilghman's brigade (1,500), now at Baldwin's Ferry, I have ordered to bring up the rear of my column; he will be, however, from 15 to 20 miles behind it. Baldwin's Ferry will be left necessarily unprotected. To hold Vicksburg are Smith's and Forney's divisions, extending from Snyder's Mill to Warrenton, numbering 7,500 effective men. The men have been marching several days, are much fatigued, and I fear will straggle very much. In directing this move, I do not think you fully comprehend the position that Vicksburg will be left in, but I comply at once with your order.

The "detachment" General Johnston speaks of in his communication consisted of four divisions of the enemy, constituting an entire army corps, numerically greater than my whole available force in the field; besides, the enemy had at least an equal force to the south, on my right flank, which would be nearer to Vicksburg than myself in case I should make the movement proposed. I had, moreover, positive information that he was daily increasing his strength. I also learned on reaching Edwards Depot that one division of the enemy (A. J. Smith's) was at or near Dillon's. This confirmed me in the opinion, previously expressed, that the movement indicated by General Johnston was extremely hazardous. I accordingly called a council of war of all the general officers present, and placing the subject before them (including General Johnston's dispatch) in every view in which it appeared to me, asked their opinions respectively. A majority of the officers present expressed themselves favorable to the movement indicated by General Johnston. The others, including Major-Generals Loring and Stevenson, preferred a movement by which the army might attempt to cut off the enemy's supplies from the Mississippi River. My own views were strongly expressed as unfavorable to any advance which would separate me farther from Vicksburg, which was my base. I did not, however, see fit to put my own judgment and opinions so far in opposition as to prevent a movement altogether, but believing the only possibility of success to be in the plan of cutting the enemy's communications, it

was adopted, and the following dispatch was addressed to General Johnston:

EDWARDS DEPOT, *May* 14, 1863.

I shall move as early to-morrow morning as practicable with a column of 17,000 men to Dillon's, situated on the main road leading from Raymond to Port Gibson, 7½ miles below Raymond and 9½ miles from Edwards Depot. The object is to cut the enemy's communications and to force him to attack me, as I do not consider my force sufficient to justify an attack on the enemy in position or to attempt to cut my way to Jackson. At this point your nearest communication would be through Raymond. I wish very much I could join my re-enforcements. Whether it will be most practicable for the re-enforcements to come by Raymond (leaving it to the right if the march cannot be made through Raymond) or to move them west along the line of railroad (leaving it to the left and south of the line of march) to Bolton Depot, or some other point west of it, you must determine. In either movement I should be advised as to the time and road, so that co-operation may be had to enable the re-enforcements to come through. I send you a map of the country, which will furnish you with a correct view of the roads and localities.

Pursuant to the plan laid down in this dispatch, the army was put in motion on the 15th, about 1 p. m., in accordance with the following order, viz:

SPECIAL ORDERS, No. —. } HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA, *Edwards Depot, May* 14, 1863.

This army will move to-morrow morning (15th instant) in the direction of Raymond, on the military road, in the following order:

1. Col. Wirt Adams' cavalry will form the advance guard, keeping at least 1 mile in advance of the head of the column, throwing out one company in front of his column and a small detachment in its advance, besides the flankers upon his column, when practicable.

2. Loring's division will constitute the right and the advance in the line of march. He will throw a regiment of infantry, with a section of artillery, at least 200 yards in his front, with a company of infantry at least 75 yards in its advance, all with the necessary detachments and flankers.

3. Bowen's division will constitute the center, and will follow the leading division.

4. Stevenson's division will constitute the left, bringing up the rear of the column.

5. The artillery of each brigade will march in the rear of their brigade.

6. The ambulances of each brigade will follow in the rear of their brigade.

7. The ordnance wagons of each division will follow in the rear of their division.

8. The wagon train will follow in rear of the entire column.

9. Should Tilghman's brigade arrive after the departure of the column, it will constitute, with a field battery, the rear guard, following immediately in rear of the wagon train.

10. A company of Wirt Adams' cavalry will close the order of march.

11. The wagon train will follow in the order of division; that is to say, the wagon train of Loring's division on the right of the train; that of Bowen's division in the center, &c. Quartermasters, commissaries, and ordnance officers will remain with their trains unless otherwise ordered. Straggling, always disgraceful in an army, is particularly forbidden. Stringent orders will be issued by the division commanders to prevent this evil. The rear guard is especially instructed to permit no one to fall to the rear under any circumstances.

A continuous and heavy rain had made Baker's Creek impassable by the ordinary ford on the main Raymond road, where the country bridge had been washed away by previous freshets. In consequence of this, the march was delayed for several hours, but the water not falling sufficiently to make the creek fordable, the column was directed by the Clinton road, on which was a good bridge, and, after passing the creek upward of 1½ miles, was filed to the right along a neighborhood road, so as to strike the Raymond road about 3½ miles from Edwards Depot. The march was continued until the head of the column had passed Mrs. Elliston's house, where it was halted, and the troops bivouacked in order of march. I made my headquarters at Mrs. Elliston's, where I found Major-General Loring had also established his.

The divisions of Generals Stevenson and Bowen having been on the march until past midnight, and the men considerably fatigued—desiring

also to receive reports of reconnaissances made in my front before proceeding farther—I did not issue orders to continue the movement at an early hour the following morning.

Immediately on my arrival at Mrs. Elliston's on the night of the 15th, I sent for Col. Wirt Adams, commanding the cavalry, and gave him the necessary instructions for picketing all approaches in my front, and directed him to send out scouting parties to discover the enemy's whereabouts. I also made strenuous efforts to effect the same object through citizens, but without success. Nothing unusual occurred during the night.

On the morning of the 16th, at about 6.30 o'clock, Col. Wirt Adams reported to me that his pickets were skirmishing with the enemy on the Raymond road some distance in our front. While in conversation with him, a courier arrived and handed me the following dispatch from General Johnston: .

CANTON ROAD, TEN MILES FROM JACKSON,
May 15, 1863—8.30 a. m.

Our being compelled to leave Jackson makes your plan impracticable. The only mode by which we can unite is by your moving directly to Clinton, informing me, that we may move to that point with about 6,000 troops. I have no means of estimating enemy's force at Jackson. The principal officers here differ very widely, and I fear he will fortify if time is left him. Let me hear from you immediately. General Maxey was ordered back to Brookhaven. You probably have time to make him join you. Do so before he has time to move away.

I immediately directed a countermarch, or rather a retrograde movement, by reversing the column as it then stood, for the purpose of returning toward Edwards Depot to take the Brownsville road, and thence to proceed toward Clinton by a route north of the railroad. A written reply to General Johnston's instructions, in which I notified him that the countermarch had been ordered and of the route I should take, was dispatched in haste, and without allowing myself sufficient time to take a copy.

Just as this reverse movement commenced, the enemy drove in Colonel Adams' cavalry pickets, and opened with artillery at long range on the head of my column on the Raymond road. Not knowing whether this was an attack in force or simply an armed reconnaissance, and being anxious to obey the instructions of General Johnston, I directed the continuance of the movement, giving the necessary instructions for securing the safety of the wagon train. The demonstrations of the enemy soon becoming more serious, orders were sent to division commanders to form in line of battle on the cross-road from the Clinton to the Raymond road, Loring on the right, Bowen in the center, and Stevenson on the left. Major-General Stevenson was instructed to make the necessary dispositions for the protection of the trains then on the Clinton road and crossing Baker's Creek. The line of battle was quickly formed, without any interference on the part of the enemy. The position selected was naturally a strong one, and all approaches from the front well covered. A short time after the formation of the line, Loring's division was thrown back so as to cover the military road, it being reported that the enemy had appeared in that direction. The enemy made his first demonstration on our right, but after a lively artillery duel for an hour or more, this attack was relinquished, and a large force was thrown against our left, where skirmishing became heavy about 10 o'clock, and the battle began in earnest along Stevenson's entire front about noon.

Just at this time a column of the enemy were seen moving in front of our center toward the right. [John C.] Landis' battery, of Bowen's division, opened upon and soon broke this column, and compelled it to

retire. I then directed Major-General Loring to move forward and crush the enemy in his front, and directed General Bowen to co-operate with him in the movement. Immediately on the receipt of my message, General Bowen rode up and announced his readiness to execute his part of the movement as soon as Major-General Loring should advance. No movement was made by Major-General Loring, he informing me that the enemy was too strongly posted to be attacked, but that he would seize the first opportunity to assault, if one should offer. The enemy still making strenuous efforts to turn Major-General Stevenson's left flank, compelled him to make a similar movement toward the left, thus extending his own line and making a gap between his and Bowen's divisions. General Bowen was ordered to keep this interval closed, and the same instructions were sent to General Loring in reference to the interval between his and General Bowen's division.

General Stevenson having informed me that unless re-enforced he would be unable to resist the heavy and repeated attacks along his whole line, Bowen was ordered to send one brigade to his assistance, which was promptly brought forward under Col. F. M. Cockrell, and in a very short time his remaining brigade, under the command of Brig. Gen. Martin E. Green, was put in, and the two together, under their gallant leaders, charged the enemy, and for the time turned the tide of battle in our favor, again displaying the heroic courage which this veteran division has made conspicuous on so many stricken fields.

The enemy still continued to move troops from his left to his right, thus increasing his vastly superior forces against Stevenson's and Bowen's divisions. Feeling assured that there was no important force in his front, I dispatched several staff officers in rapid succession to Major-General Loring, ordering him to move all but one brigade (Tilghman's, which was directed to hold the Raymond road and cover the bridge and ford at Baker's Creek) to the left as rapidly as possible. To the first of these messages, sent about 2 p. m., answer was returned by Major-General Loring that the enemy was in strong force in his front, and endeavoring to flank him. Hearing no firing on the right, I repeated my orders to Major-General Loring, explained to him the condition of affairs on the left, and directed him to put his two left brigades into the fight as soon as possible. In the transmission of these various messages to and fro, over a distance of more than a mile, much valuable time was necessarily consumed, which the enemy did not fail to take advantage of.

About 4 p. m. a part of Stevenson's division broke badly and fell back in great disorder, but were partially rallied by the strenuous exertions of myself and staff, and put back under their own officers into the fight, but observing that large numbers of men were abandoning the field on Stevenson's left, deserting their comrades, who in this moment of greatest trial stood manfully at their posts, I rode up to General Stevenson, and informing him that I had repeatedly ordered two brigades of General Loring's division to his assistance, and that I was momentarily expecting them, asked him whether he could hold his position; he replied that he could not; that he was fighting from 60,000 to 80,000 men. I then told him I would endeavor myself to find General Loring and hasten him up, and started immediately with that object. I presently met Brigadier-General Buford's brigade, of Loring's division, on the march and in rear of the right of Bowen's division.

Colonel Cockrell, commanding the First Missouri Brigade, having in person some time previously urgently asked for re-enforcements, which (none of Loring's troops having come up) I was then unable to give

him, one regiment of Buford's brigade was detached at once and directed to his support; the remainder of Buford's brigade was moved as rapidly as possible to the assistance of General Stevenson.

Finding that the enemy's vastly superior numbers were pressing all my forces engaged steadily back into old fields, where all advantages of position would be in his favor, I felt it to be too late to save the day, even should Brigadier-General Featherston's brigade, of General Loring's division, come up immediately. I could, however, learn nothing of General Loring's whereabouts; several of my staff were in search of him, but it was not until after General Bowen had personally informed me that he could not hold his position longer, and not until after I had ordered the retreat, that General Loring, with Featherston's brigade, moving, as I subsequently learned, by a country road which was considerably longer than the direct route, reached the position on the left known as Champion's Hill, where he was forming line of battle when he received my order to cover the retreat.

Had the movement in support of the left been promptly made when first ordered, it is not improbable that I might have maintained my position, and it is possible the enemy might have been driven back, though his vastly superior and constantly increasing numbers would have rendered it necessary to withdraw during the night to save my communications with Vicksburg.

Early in the day Major [Samuel H.] Lockett, chief engineer, had been instructed to throw a bridge across Baker's Creek, on the Raymond road. The stream had also fallen sufficiently to render the ford practicable. The retreat was ordered to be conducted by that route, and a staff officer immediately dispatched to Brigadier-General Tilghman, who was directed to hold the Raymond road at all hazards; it was in the execution of this important trust, which could not have been confided to a fitter man, that the lamented general bravely lost his life. He was struck by a fragment of shell and died almost instantly.

Although, as before stated, a large number of men had shamefully abandoned their commands, and were making their way to the rear, the main body of the troops retired in good order.

On reaching the ford and bridge at Baker's Creek, I directed Brigadier-General Bowen to take position with his division on the west bank, and to hold the crossing until Loring's division, which was directed to bring up the rear, had effected the passage. I then proceeded at once to the intrenched line covering the wagon and railroad bridges over the Big Black, to make the necessary arrangements for holding that point during the passage of the river.

In his official report, Major-General Stevenson says:

On my arrival, about sunset, at the ford on Baker's Creek, I found that the enemy had crossed the bridge above, and were advancing artillery in the direction of the road on which we were moving. One battery had already taken position and was playing on the road, but at right angles, and with too long a range to prevent the passage of troops. Here I found on the west side the brigades of General Green and Colonel Cockrell, of Bowen's division, who had there halted and taken up position to hold the point until Loring's division could cross. I found Colonel [Thomas M.] Scott, of the Twelfth Louisiana Regiment, of Loring's division, halted about half a mile from the ford, on the east side, and directed him to cross. I there addressed a note to General Loring, informing him of what I had done, telling him of the change I had caused Colonel Scott to make in his position, stating that with the troops then there, and others that I could collect, I would hold the ford and road until his division could cross, and urging him to hasten the movement. To this note I received no answer, but in a short time Colonel Scott moved off his regiment quickly in the direction of his original position, in obedience, I was informed, to orders from General Loring. Inferring from this that General Loring did not intend to cross at that ford, he having

had ample time to commence the movement, I suggested to General Green and Colonel Cockrell to move forward to the railroad bridge. My command reached that point at about 1 o'clock that night and bivouacked near Bovina.

The entire train of the army, under the judicious management of Col. A. W. Reynolds, commanding Tennessee Brigade, of Stevenson's division, was crossed without loss, though the movements of the enemy compelled Colonel Reynolds' brigade to cross the Big Black above the railroad bridge.

On reaching the line of intrenchments occupied by Brigadier-General Vaughn's brigade of East Tennesseeans (Smith's division), he was instructed by myself in person to man the trenches from the railroad to the left, his artillery to remain as then posted, and all wagons to cross the river at once. Special instructions were left with Lieut. J. H. Morrison, aide-de-camp, to be delivered to Generals Loring, Stevenson, and Bowen, as they should arrive, and were delivered to all except General Loring, as follows:

General Stevenson's division to cross the river and proceed to Mount Alban.

General Loring's to cross and occupy the west bank.

Brigadier-General Bowen's division, as it should arrive, was directed to occupy the trenches to the right and left of Vaughn's, and his artillery to be parked, that it might be available for any point of the lines most threatened.

General Stevenson's division, arriving very late in the night, did not move beyond Bovina, and I awaited in vain intelligence of the approach of General Loring. It was necessary to hold the position to enable him to cross the river, should the enemy, which was probable, follow him closely up.

For this purpose alone I continued the troops in position until it was too late to withdraw them under cover of night. I then determined not to abandon so strong a front while there was yet a hope of his arrival.

I have not up to this time received General Loring's report of the share taken by his division in the battle of Baker's Creek, nor have I yet been informed of the reason why he failed to rejoin the army under my command.

The Big Black River, where it is crossed by the railroad bridge, makes a bend somewhat in the shape of a horseshoe. Across this horseshoe, at its narrowest part, a line of rifle-pits had been constructed, making an excellent cover for infantry, and at proper intervals dispositions were made for field artillery. The line of pits ran nearly north and south, and was about 1 mile in length. North of and for a considerable distance south of the railroad and of the dirt road to Edwards Depot, nearly parallel with it, extended a bayou, which in itself opposed a serious obstacle to an assault upon the pits. This line abutted north on the river and south upon a cypress-brake, which spread itself nearly to the bank of the river.

In addition to the railroad bridge, which I had caused to be floored for the passage even of artillery and wagons, the steamer Dot, from which the machinery had been taken, was converted into a bridge, by placing her fore and aft across the river. Between the works and the bridge, about three-quarters of a mile, the country was open, being either old or cultivated fields, affording no cover should the troops be driven from the trenches. East and south of the railroad the topographical features of the country over which the enemy must necessarily pass were similar to those above described; but north of the railroad and

about 300 yards in front of the rifle-pits a copse of wood extended from the road to the river.

Our line was manned on the right by the gallant Cockrell's Missouri brigade, the extreme left by Brigadier-General Green's Missouri and Arkansas men (both of Bowen's division), and the center by Brigadier-General Vaughn's brigade of East Tennesseeans, in all about 4,000 men—as many as could be advantageously employed in defending the line—with about twenty pieces of field artillery. So strong was the position, that my greatest, almost only, apprehension was a flank movement by Bridgeport or Baldwin's Ferry, which would have endangered my communications with Vicksburg. Yet this position was abandoned by our troops almost without a struggle and with the loss of nearly all our artillery.

I speak not now of the propriety nor of the necessity of holding this position. I had, as heretofore noticed, my object in doing so. I considered that object sufficient, and I also deemed the force employed for the purpose ample. Brigadier-General Vaughn's brigade had not been engaged at Baker's Creek; his men were fresh, and I believed were not demoralized. I knew that the Missouri troops, under their gallant leaders, could be depended upon.

By whose order the battery horses were so far removed from their guns as not to be available I do not know; it certainly was not by mine. General Bowen, with whom I had a personal interview in his tent on the night of the 16th, and who received his instructions from my own lips (Lieutenant-Colonel [L. M.] Montgomery, of Lieut. Gen. E. Kirby Smith's staff, being then present and acting as my aide-de-camp), I do not believe to be responsible for it. He was too old and too good a soldier. Enough, however, will, I think, be developed in a few words to cover the whole case.

Early on the morning of the 17th, the enemy opened his artillery at long range, and very soon pressed forward with infantry into the copse of wood north of the railroad. About the same time he opened on Colonel Cockrell's position with two batteries, and advanced a line of skirmishers, throwing forward a column of infantry, which was quickly driven back by our batteries. Pretty heavy skirmishing was for a while kept up along our whole line, but presently the enemy, who had massed a large force in the woods immediately north of the railroad, advanced at a run with loud cheers. Our troops in their front did not remain to receive them, but broke and fled precipitately. One portion of the line being broken, it very soon became a matter of *sauve qui peut.*

I shall only add with reference to the affair of Big Black, that a strong position, with an ample force of infantry and artillery to hold it, was shamefully abandoned almost without resistance.

The troops occupying the center did not do their duty. With an almost impassable bayou between themselves and the enemy, they fled before the enemy had reached that obstacle.

I have received no report from Brigadier-General Vaughn of the operations of his brigade on this occasion.

Colonel Cockrell says in his official report:

> After a lively skirmish fire had been kept up for some time along our whole front, I saw the line between the railroad and first skirt of timber north of the railroad beginning to give way and then running in disorder. I watched this disorderly falling back a few minutes, when I saw that the enemy had possession of the trenches north of the railroad and were rapidly advancing toward the bridge—our only crossing and way of escape—the enemy now being nearer this crossing than my line. I therefore ordered the brigade to fall back, and, moving rapidly, gained the bridge, crossed over, and reformed on the west bank of the river north of the railroad.

Colonel [Elijah] Gates, commanding Second Brigade, Bowen's division, says in his official report:

> They (the enemy) formed their men on the river in the timber, where we could not see them. They brought their men out by the right flank in column of fours, about 140 yards in front of my regiment, at a double-quick. I then opened a most terrific fire upon them and kept it up until the brigade had passed out of my sight behind a grove of timber immediately upon my right. They moved so as to strike the trenches occupied by General Vaughn's brigade, so I am informed. I do not know whose troops were there, but it was immediately on the right of Green's brigade. After they had passed me, I listened for our men to open a heavy volley on my right and drive the enemy back. Upon not hearing any firing on the right, I directed Lieutenant-Colonel [George W.] Law to mount his horse and go to General Green, and know whether the center was holding their position or not. Colonel Law returned in a few minutes and said that General Green ordered me to fall back. I did so at once. After I had got back below the bend of the river, I discovered that they had crossed the ditches and were between me and the bridge.

In this precipitate retreat but little order was observed, the object with all being to reach the bridge as rapidly as possible. Many were unable to do so, but effected their escape by swimming the river. Some were drowned in the attempt; a considerable number, unable to swim, and others too timid to expose themselves to the fire of the enemy by an effort to escape, remained in the trenches and were made prisoners.

In this connection I deem it my duty to make the following extract from the report of Colonel Cockrell:

> Capt. Thomas B. Wilson, of the Second Infantry, Company G, claiming to have been exhausted, did not go with his company into the battle of Baker's Creek, and having made his way to Big Black, joined his company in the rifle-pits early on the morning of the 17th instant, and, when his company was ordered to fall back, abandoned his company and remained lying in the rifle-pits, and was captured by the enemy, and, while a prisoner, stated to Col. Elijah Gates, of the First Missouri Cavalry, who was also a prisoner, that he (Captain Wilson) intended to take the oath and then go to fighting the enemy as a guerrilla. Such conduct merits a dismissal in disgrace, and such an officer should not remain in the way of gallant and efficient officers now commanding his company.

In this opinion I fully concur.

Neither Brigadier-Generals Bowen nor Green had furnished reports of the action on Big Black previous to their death; to the former had been intrusted the defense of the *tete-de-pont*, and he had received my instructions in person; the latter had been second in command. Brigadier-General Vaughn having failed to render his report, I am dependent for the particulars of the action upon those of Colonels Gates and Cockrell, which are respectfully forwarded herewith.

Major Lockett, chief engineer, was instructed to fire both bridges after seeing that all the troops had crossed. This was effectually accomplished under his personal supervision. The guns in position were ample for the defense, but the infantry failing to support them, they were abandoned. Such as were not in position were safely brought from the field, placed in battery on the bluff on the west bank, and, with others already established and a sufficient force of infantry, held the advancing columns of the enemy effectually in check.

It had become painfully apparent to me that the *morale* of my army was not such as to justify an attempt to hold the line of the Big Black River. Not only was it greatly weakened by the absence of General Loring's division, but also by the large number of stragglers, who, having abandoned their commands, were already making their way into Vicksburg.

The enemy, by flank movements on my left by Bridgeport and on my right by Baldwin's or other ferries, might reach Vicksburg almost simul-

taneously with myself, or perhaps interpose a heavy force between me and that city. Under these circumstances nothing remained but to retire the army within the defenses of Vicksburg, and to endeavor as speedily as possible to reorganize the depressed and discomfited troops.

Orders were accordingly issued at 10 a. m., and Major-General Stevenson directed to conduct the retreat, which was executed without haste and in good order. I myself proceeded at once to Vicksburg to prepare for its defense.

I think it due to myself, in bringing this portion of my report to a conclusion, to state emphatically that the advance movement of the army from Edwards Depot on the afternoon of May 15 was made against my judgment, in opposition to my previously expressed intentions, and to the subversion of my matured plans. In one contingency alone I had determined to move toward Jackson; the safety of Vicksburg was of paramount importance; under no circumstances could I abandon my communications with it. A sufficient force must also be left to defend the river front of the city, the approaches by Chickasaw Bayou, by Snyder's Mill, and Warrenton against a *coup de main*. My effective aggregate did not exceed 28,000. At least 8,000 would be required for these purposes; it would also be necessary to hold the bridges across the Big Black, on the line of the Southern Railroad. With these deductions my movable army might reach 18,500. I give this number as the maximum.

In the event, therefore, of the enemy advancing with his whole force east of the Mississippi River against Jackson, my communications by the shortest line being open would have enabled me to move upon his rear. General Johnston's forces and my own might have formed a junction or have attacked simultaneously in front and rear. But I did not think it would be wise to attempt to execute this plan until the arrival of expected re-enforcements at or near Jackson. Hence I received General Johnston's instructions on the morning of the 14th to move to Clinton with all the force I could quickly collect with great regret; and I well remember that in the presence of one or more of my staff officers I remarked in substance, "Such a movement will be suicidal." Nevertheless, notifying General Johnston of the fact, I took measures for an advance movement at once; not, it is true, directly toward Clinton, but in the only direction which, from my knowledge of the circumstances surrounding me, I thought offered a possibility of success. Had I moved directly to Clinton, the enemy would not have given me battle in front, but would have interposed a force greater than my own between me and Vicksburg. It is only necessary to refer to the maps accompanying this report* to see how feasible was such a movement.

I have already given in the body of this report the two letters of instructions from General Johnston, dated respectively May 13 and 15, 1863. In obedience to the instructions contained in the former, which was received on the morning of the 14th, I lost no time in putting my army in motion in the direction already stated and for the reasons given.

About 7 a. m. on the 16th, I received the latter, which reiterated the previous instructions. I had in no measure changed my views as to the propriety of the movement therein indicated, but I no longer felt at liberty to deviate from General Johnston's positive orders. He had been made aware of my views and did not sustain them. The order of march was at once reversed, but the army was hardly in motion before it became necessary to form line of battle to meet the greatly superior forces of the enemy.

* To appear in Atlas.

About 6 p. m. on the 16th, while on the retreat, the following communication was handed to me:

CAMP, SEVEN MILES FROM JACKSON,
May 14, 1863.

GENERAL: The body of troops mentioned in my note of last night compelled Brigadier-General Gregg and his command to evacuate Jackson about noon to-day. The necessity of taking the Canton road at right angles to that upon which the enemy approaches, prevented an obstinate defense. A body of troops, reported this morning to have reached Raymond last night, advanced at the same time from that direction. Prisoners say that it was McPherson's corps (four divisions), which marched from Clinton. I have no certain information of the other; both skirmished very cautiously. Telegrams were dispatched when the enemy was near, directing General Gist to assemble the approaching troops at a point 40 or 50 miles from Jackson, and General Maxey to return to his wagons and provide for the security of his brigade; for instance, by joining General Gist. That body of troops will be able, I hope, to prevent the enemy in Jackson from drawing provisions from the east, and this one may be able to keep him from the country toward Panola. Can he supply himself from the Mississippi? Can you not cut him off from it; and, above all, should he be compelled to fall back for want of supplies, beat him? As soon as the re-enforcements are all up, they must be united to the rest of the army. I am anxious to see a force assembled that may be able to inflict a heavy blow upon the enemy. Would it not be better to place the forces to support Vicksburg between General Loring and that place, and merely observe the ferries, so that you might unite if opportunity to fight presented itself? General Gregg will move toward Canton to-morrow. If prisoners tell the truth, the force at Jackson must be half of Grant's army. It would decide the campaign to beat it, which can only be done by concentrating, especially when the remainder of the eastern troops arrive; they are to be 12,000 or 13,000.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON.

It will be observed that General Johnston's letter of the 15th, which caused me to reverse my column, with a view of marching to Clinton, was received before the retreat commenced, and about eleven hours earlier than the one of the 14th, just presented. I know nothing of the causes which produced this result, but I respectfully invite attention to the fact that in this letter of the 14th General Johnston suggests the very movement which I had made, and for the purpose I had indicated. After expressing the hope that certain dispositions made by himself might prevent the enemy from drawing provisions from the east or from the country toward Panola, he says:

Can he supply himself from the Mississippi? Can you not cut him off from it; and, above all, should he be compelled to fall back for want of supplies, beat him?

I have introduced General Johnston's letter entire, that the context, as well as that portion to which I have particularly called attention, may be considered. I had resisted the popular clamor for an advance, which began from the moment the enemy set his polluting foot upon the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. I had resisted the universal sentiment, I believe of the army—I know of my general officers—in its favor, and yielded only to the orders of my superior. I was not invited by General Johnston to submit my plans to him for his consideration; it is, therefore, unnecessary now to speak of them.

One of the immediate results of the retreat from Big Black was the necessity of abandoning our defenses on the Yazoo at Snyder's Mill. That position and the line of Chickasaw Bayou were no longer tenable. All stores that could be transported were ordered to be sent into Vicksburg as rapidly as possible; the rest, including heavy guns, to be destroyed.

There was at this time a large quantity of corn (probably 25,000 or 30,000 bushels) on boats, much of which might have been brought in had it been possible to furnish the necessary wagons. The boats were

sent up the river. Two companies were directed to remain at Snyder's Mill, making a show of force until the approach of the enemy by land should compel them to retire. To them was intrusted the duty of forwarding all stores possible and of destroying the remainder. This detachment rejoined its command in Vicksburg on the morning of the 18th. Every precaution was taken to guard the important approaches to the city by Forney's and Smith's divisions, while the troops which had been engaged in the battles of the 16th and 17th were bivouacked in rear of the intrenchments. During these battles, the troops of Major-General Forney's division were disposed as follows: Brigadier-General Hébert's brigade occupied the line along the Yazoo River, from Haynes' Bluff to the Mississippi, including the approaches by Chickasaw Bayou; Brigadier-General [J. C.] Moore's brigade, with the Mississippi State troops (under General [John V.] Harris) attached (about 600), guarded the river front at Warrenton and the approaches from the lower ferries on Big Black River; Brigadier-General [F. A.] Shoup's brigade, of Major-General Smith's division, guarded the river front of the city; Brigadier-General [W. E.] Baldwin's brigade, with [T. N.] Waul's Legion attached, guarded the approaches to the city from the Hall's Ferry road around to the railroad bridge on the Big Black; the heavy artillery at the batteries on the river front under Colonel [Edward] Higgins. Brigadier-General Moore's brigade was drawn in at once from Warrenton, and placed in the intrenchments on either side of the Baldwin's Ferry road. Brigadier-General Hébert's brigade arrived before daylight on the 18th, bringing with it all the light pieces, and, in addition, two 20-pounder Parrotts and a Whitworth gun. This brigade immediately occupied the intrenchments on both sides of the Jackson road.

On the morning of the 18th, the troops were disposed from right to left, as follows: Major-General Stevenson's division of four brigades occupied the line from the Warrenton road, including a portion of the river front, to the railroad, a distance of about 5 miles; Major-General Forney, with two brigades, the line between the railroad and the Graveyard road, about 2 miles, and Major-General Smith, with three brigades (the Mississippi State troops) and a small detachment from Loring's division, the line from the Graveyard road to the river front on the north, about 1¼ miles. Brigadier-General Bowen's division was held in reserve to strengthen any portion of the line most threatened, and Waul's Texas Legion (about 500) was in reserve, especially to support the right of Moore's or the left of Lee's brigades. On the entire line about one hundred and two pieces of artillery, of different caliber, principally field, were placed in position at such points as were deemed most suitable to the character of the gun, changes of location being made when occasion called for it. An engineer officer, under the supervision of Major Lockett, chief engineer of the department, was assigned to each division, with an assistant to each brigade commander. Daily reports were made through the proper channel to Major Lockett of the operations of the engineer department and of the progress of the enemy's works. Major Lockett thus kept me constantly informed of all important changes, making himself a daily report. Instructions had been given from Bovina that all cattle, sheep, and hogs belonging to private parties, and likely to fall into the hands of the enemy, should be driven within our lines. A large amount of fresh meat was secured in this way. The same instructions were given in regard to corn, and all disposable wagons applied to this end.

On the 18th, Col. Wirt Adams, who had been previously directed to cross to the west bank of the Big Black with all his cavalry, was noti-

fied that Snyder's Mill would be abandoned, and that he was expected to operate on the flank and rear of the enemy, with the view of cutting off his supplies in that direction. Colonel Adams' force was, however, very inadequate to this purpose.

During the night of the 17th, nothing of importance occurred. Most of the artillery was speedily placed in position on the lines, and immediate measures were taken to arm all men who had either unavoidably lost or who had thrown away their arms on the retreat.

General Johnston was notified on the 17th of the result of the battles of Baker's Creek and Big Black, and informed that I had in consequence been compelled to evacuate Snyder's Mill.

About noon of May 18, while engaged in an inspection of the intrenchments with Major Lockett, my chief engineer, and several of my general officers, the enemy was reported to be advancing by the Jackson road. Just at this moment the following communication was received by courier:

CAMP, BETWEEN LIVINGSTON AND BROWNSVILLE,
May 17, 1863.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

Your dispatch of to-day by Captain [Thomas] Henderson was received. If Haynes' Bluff is untenable, Vicksburg is of no value and cannot be held. If, therefore, you are invested in Vicksburg, you must ultimately surrender. Under such circumstances, instead of losing both troops and place, we must, if possible, save the troops. If it is not too late, evacuate Vicksburg and its dependencies, and march to the northeast.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. JOHNSTON,
General.

The evacuation of Vicksburg! It meant the loss of the valuable stores and munitions of war collected for its defense; the fall of Port Hudson; the surrender of the Mississippi River, and the severance of the Confederacy. These were mighty interests, which, had I deemed the evacuation practicable in the sense in which I interpreted General Johnston's instructions, might well have made me hesitate to execute them. I believed it to be in my power to hold Vicksburg. I knew and appreciated the earnest desire of the Government and of the people that it should be held. I knew, perhaps better than any other individual, under all the circumstances, its capacity for defense. As long ago as February 17 last, in a letter addressed to His Excellency the President, I had suggested the possibility of the investment of Vicksburg by land and water, and for that reason the necessity of ample supplies of ammunition as well as of subsistence to stand a siege. My application met his favorable consideration, and additional ammunition was ordered. With proper economy of subsistence and ordnance stores, I knew that I could stand a siege. I had a firm reliance on the desire of the President and of General Johnston to do all that could be done to raise a siege. I felt that every effort would be made, and I believed it would be successful. With these convictions on my own mind, I immediately summoned a council of war composed of all my general officers. I laid before them General Johnston's communication, but desired them to confine the expression of their opinions to the question of practicability. Having obtained their views, the following communication was addressed to General Johnston:

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Vicksburg, May 18, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, in reply to mine by the hands of Captain [Thomas] Henderson. In a subsequent letter of

same date as this latter, I informed you that the men had failed to hold the trenches at Big Black Bridge, and that, as a consequence, Snyder's Mill was directed to be abandoned. On the receipt of your communication, I immediately assembled a council of war of the general officers of this command, and having laid your instructions before them, asked the free expression of their opinions as to the practicability of carrying them out. The opinion was unanimously expressed that it was impossible to withdraw the army from this position with such *morale* and material as to be of further service to the Confederacy. While the council of war was assembled, the guns of the enemy opened on the works, and it was at the same time reported that they were crossing the Yazoo River at Brandon's Ferry, above Snyder's Mill. I have decided to hold Vicksburg as long as is possible, with the firm hope that the Government may yet be able to assist me in keeping this obstruction to the enemy's free navigation of the Mississippi River. I still conceive it to be the most important point in the Confederacy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

The development of the intrenched line from the extreme right of Major-General Stevenson's position to the left of Major-General Smith's was about 8 miles, the shortest defensible line of which the topography of the country admitted. The plan was submitted to me immediately after I assumed command of the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana, in the latter part of October, 1862; was approved, and ordered to be carried out with the utmost dispatch. Similar instructions were about the same time given for fortifying the strong position at Snyder's Mill, and the land defenses of Port Hudson were also ordered to be commenced at once. The line of defense around the city of Vicksburg consisted (as is shown in the map accompanying the report of Major [S. H.] Lockett, chief engineer) of a system of detached works (redans, lunettes, and redoubts) on the prominent and commanding points, with the usual profile of raised field works, connected in most cases by rifle-pits. To man the entire line, I was able to bring into the trenches about eighteen thousand five hundred muskets, but it was absolutely necessary to keep a reserve always ready to re-enforce any point heavily threatened. It became indispensable, therefore, to reduce the number in the trenches to the minimum capable of holding them until a reserve could come to their aid. It was also necessary that the reserve should be composed of troops among the best and most reliable. Accordingly, Bowen's division (about 2,400) and Waul's Texas Legion (about 500) were designated for that purpose, thus reducing the force in the trenches to little over 15,500 men. The Legion was on the 18th assigned as a reserve to Forney's division, and was held in rear of Brigadier-General Moore's right, but on the evening of the 19th was transferred to Stevenson's division, and during the remainder of the siege was held in rear of Brigadier-General Lee's brigade, occupying one of the most exposed and important positions on the whole line.

On the night of the 17th, and during the 18th, Major-General Smith, misapprehending my instructions given him immediately after my return from the Big Black, had occupied an outer line of defense on the range of hills north of the Fort Hill road. This line had undoubtedly some advantages; it was within 600 yards of the inner line, and partially commanded one of our most important river batteries. I considered, however, that the increased length which would necessarily be given to the whole line of defense, the intervening valley, and other objections to its occupation more than counterbalanced the advantages; the troops and artillery were, therefore, on the night of the 18th silently and safely withdrawn, and General Smith's division occupied the inner line during the remainder of the siege. The enemy, however, had made during the day a demonstration with artillery and infantry on his position, and

early on the morning of the 19th he occupied the abandoned heights. During the day there was constant and heavy skirmishing along the left of our center on the Graveyard road, accompanied with brisk artillery fire. In the afternoon the enemy made a charge on Smith's right and Forney's left, but was severely repulsed, losing two stand of colors. Later their sharpshooters and artillery opened heavily on the Jackson and Baldwin's Ferry road.

A courier was dispatched with the following telegram to the President:

We are occupying the trenches around Vicksburg. The enemy is investing it, and will probably attempt an assault. Our men have considerably recovered their *morale*, but unless a large force is sent at once to relieve it, Vicksburg before long must fall. I have used every effort to prevent all this, but in vain.

20th.—The enemy continued to move from our right with heavy cannonading toward the center and left; three guns temporarily disabled. At noon the mortar fleet of Admiral Porter took position on the west side of the peninsula, and commenced the bombardment of the city.

The following dispatch was forwarded by courier to General Johnston:

The enemy assaulted our intrenched lines yesterday at two points (center and left), and was repulsed with heavy loss. Our loss small. I cannot estimate the enemy's force now engaged around Vicksburg at less than 60,000; it is probably more. At this hour (8.30 a. m.) he is briskly cannonading with long-range guns. That we may save ammunition, his fire is rarely returned. At present our main necessity is musket-caps. Can you send them to me by hands of couriers or citizens? An army will be necessary to relieve Vicksburg, and that quickly. Will it not be sent? Please let me hear from you, if possible.

21st.—The fire from the mortar fleet continued without intermission, accompanied by heavy musketry and artillery fire from the rear, to which but slight response was given. Several guns were dismounted, and a number of officers and men killed and wounded. In the afternoon the enemy's gunboats steamed up and threw a large number of shells into the city, but without material damage. Anticipating an attack on the right, General Bowen was ordered to hold his command in readiness to assist the threatened point; and that the safety of the magazines might be secured from the possible danger of disloyal persons within the lines, General Stevenson was ordered to organize a guard for their protection from among the most reputable of the citizens, and to place the guard under the command of a commissioned officer. The prospect of a protracted siege, and the uncertainty as to how many assaults we might have to repel, and in view of the possibility of having to march out from our intrenchments to meet and co-operate with an assisting army expected under General Johnston, rendered it a matter of vital importance that every charge of ammunition on hand should be hoarded with the most jealous care. The amount of ammunition in Vicksburg, though large, would not have sufficed for an unlimited daily expenditure for a protracted period. The importance of the most rigid economy, therefore, in its use was apparent, and strict orders were consequently issued against all picket skirmishing and artillery duels where neither served any useful purpose. These orders were repeated as occasion required.

It being impracticable to continue feeding the large number of mules and horses then in Vicksburg, General Stevenson was directed to have them driven beyond the lines for pasturage, or, if practicable, to send them in charge of a detail to General Johnston. By this means we were relieved of a serious incumbrance, which would else have drawn heavily upon our limited supplies of forage.

Another courier was to-day sent to General Johnston with the following dispatches:

During the past two days the enemy has passed up the river in transports in large force for a point not yet discovered.

The enemy has continued a spirited fire all day; also his shelling from mortar-boats. Our men have replied rarely. Two large transports came down loaded with troops. They are evidently re-enforcing their present large force. Am I to expect re-enforcements? From what direction, and how soon? Have you heard anything from General Loring? Can you send me musket-caps by courier?

The enemy kept up incessant sharpshooting all yesterday on the left and center, and picked off our officers and men whenever they showed themselves. Their artillery fire was very heavy; plowed up our works considerably, and dismounted two guns on the center. The works were repaired, and the guns replaced last night. The great question is ammunition. The men credit and are encouraged by a report that you are near with a large force. They are fighting in good spirits, and the reorganization is complete.

P. S.—Brisk musketry and artillery fire to-day on center. Three guns there dismounted; will be replaced as far as possible. Officers suffer most from their sharpshooters. Incessant mortar-firing from the river, and last night three of their gunboats engaged the lower batteries.

22*d*.—The fire from the enemy's artillery and sharpshooters in the rear was heavy and incessant until noon, when his gunboats opened upon the city, while a determined assault was made along Moore's, Hébert's, and Lee's lines. I cannot better describe this assault than by the following extracts from the official reports of my several division commanders. General Stevenson says in his report:

On the morning of May 22, many indications showed that they (the enemy) contemplated an assault upon the line of General Lee. A tremendous artillery fire was opened and kept up for about two hours, while the fire of their large force of sharpshooters was heavy and incessant.

At about 1 p. m. a heavy force moved out to the assault, making a gallant charge. They were allowed to approach unmolested to within good musket range, when every available gun was opened upon them with grape and canister, and the men, rising in the trenches, poured into their ranks volley after volley with so deadly an effect that, leaving the ground literally covered in some places with their dead and wounded, they precipitately retreated.

The angle of one of our redoubts having been breached by their artillery previous to the assault, when the repulse occurred, a party of about 60 of the enemy, under the command of a lieutenant-colonel, made a rush, and succeeded in effecting a lodgment in the ditch at the foot of the redoubt, and planted two colors on the parapet. It was of vital importance to drive them out, and, upon a call for volunteers for that purpose, two companies of Waul's Texas Legion, commanded, respectively, by Captain [L. D.] Bradley and Lieutenant [James] Hogue, accompanied by the gallant and chivalrous Col. E. W. Pettus, of the Twentieth Alabama Regiment, musket in hand, promptly presented themselves for the hazardous service. Of their success and the manner in which it was achieved, General Stevenson says:

A more gallant feat than this has not illustrated our annals during the war. The preparations were quietly and quickly made, but the enemy seemed at once to divine our purpose, and opened upon the angle a terrible fire of shot, shell, and musketry. Undaunted, this little band, its chivalrous commander at its head, rushed upon the work, and, in less time than it requires to describe it, it and the flags were in our possession. Preparations were then quickly made for the use of hand-grenades, when the enemy in the ditch, being informed of our purpose, immediately surrendered.

General Forney in his report, speaking of the assault upon our intrenchment, says:

On May 22, he assaulted three points on my line as follows: Three times on my extreme left, and extending to General Smith's front; twice on the Jackson road, and twice on the Baldwin's Ferry road, at 11 a. m. and 5 p. m.

These assaults were made by larger bodies, and apparently with greater determination, than those of May 19.

Colonel Waul's Legion had previously been sent to General Stevenson, but Green's brigade, of Bowen's division, was in reserve behind my right, and assisted in repelling the attack at that point. There were also on this day two Louisiana regiments of Smith's division in reserve behind my division.

The enemy was repulsed in each of his attempts, though he succeeded in getting a few men into our exterior ditches at each point of attack, from which they were, however, driven before night. Hand-grenades were used at each point with good effect.

A color-bearer and two stand of colors were captured by the Second Texas Regiment, of Moore's brigade.

On this day the casualties in my division were 42 killed and 95 wounded. The loss of the enemy must have reached 2,000.

General Smith, in his report of this assault, says:

The 22d passed in the same manner until about 2 p. m., when a column was discovered advancing against the right of Shoup's brigade. It was immediately driven back. Another then approached on the right of the center. This was dispersed without great effort and with considerable loss. Again the enemy appeared in increased force on my right and Forney's left. He was promptly repulsed with heavy loss. This terminated the day's operations, with the exception of the same heavy fire of musketry and artillery kept up until dark along my entire front. After these several decided repulses, the enemy seemed to have abandoned the idea of taking by assault, and went vigorously at work to thoroughly invest and attack by regular approaches; and the history of one day is pretty much the history of all.

23d.—This day was unusually quiet, with but little artillery firing until late in the afternoon. The sharpshooters of the enemy were more cautious, and he was evidently staggered by the severe repulse of the day previous. Many of his dead were still lying unburied in sight of our trenches. The fire from the mortar-fleet continued heavy and incessant. At night the engineers were again busily engaged in repairing the works in front of Lee, Moore, and Hébert, which were badly shattered.

24th.—At an early hour the mortar-fleet opened and kept up a continuous and heavy bombardment throughout the day. Just before dark the artillery from the rear opened a rapid and heavy fire, but not of long duration. In the afternoon the enemy attempted to mine our works on the Jackson road, but were soon driven off by the use of hand-grenades. During the night the engineers were engaged in increasing and strengthening our works. Before daylight our river pickets captured a barge laden with coal, which was sunk, it being found impracticable to unload it.

General Stevenson was ordered to have collected all the ammunition scattered in front of our trenches, and to have the cartridge-boxes of the enemy's dead emptied of their contents, it being important to add in any way to our limited supply of ammunition, and of musket-caps especially, of which latter we stood greatly in need, having one million more of cartridges than caps, without which latter, of course, the former could be of no possible value.

25th.—The enemy appeared in force to-day on the Warrenton and Hall's Ferry roads. The firing was about as usual until 6 o'clock, when a cessation of hostilities was agreed upon, to permit the enemy to bury his dead, killed in the assault of Friday. The following is the correspondence on the subject:

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863.

COMMANDING GENERAL UNITED STATES FORCES,
In Front of Vicksburg:

SIR: Two days having elapsed since your dead and wounded have been lying in our front, and as yet no disposition on your part of a desire to remove them being exhibited,

in the name of humanity I have the honor to propose a cessation of hostilities for two hours and a half, that you may be enabled to remove your dead and dying men. If you cannot do this, on notification from you that hostilities will be suspended on your part for the time specified, I will endeavor to have the dead buried and the wounded cared for.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

To which communication the following reply was received:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863—3.30 p. m.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss.:

SIR: Your note of this date, proposing a cessation of hostilities for two hours and a half, for the purpose of giving me an opportunity of collecting the dead and wounded, is just received. As it will take some time to send word to all my forces to avail themselves of the opportunity afforded, and to return this to you, so that notice may be given to your troops of the cessation of hostilities, I will name 6 p. m. to-day as the hour when we will commence collecting any wounded or dead we may have still upon the field. From that hour for two hours and a half all hostilities shall cease on our side.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

During the day about 100 prisoners were captured, and a working party was sent to throw up obstructions on the flat below the city. No circumstance worthy of special note occurred between this date and that of the 27th. The enemy evidently was discouraged by his previous fruitless and costly assaults upon our works in the rear, and he therefore determined, if possible, to attempt to silence our upper battery, and then by the aid of his gunboats to effect a lodgment in the trenches immediately above and beyond it.

With this design, on the morning of the 27th, at about 9 o'clock, four of his boats engaged our lower batteries; at the same time the Cincinnati, a turreted iron-clad of the largest class, and carrying fourteen guns, pushed boldly down the river, rounded the peninsula, and was soon hotly engaged with our upper battery at short range. After a spirited engagement of about forty-five minutes, the Cincinnati was rendered a complete wreck, and only escaped total destruction by being run aground on the Mississippi shore, where she is probably still lying. The lower fleet, witnessing her discomfiture, soon drew off; with what damage to themselves it is impossible to say.

The firing from our batteries was most excellent, and too much praise cannot be awarded to Colonel [E.] Higgins, his officers and men, for their gallantry, coolness, and skill. The enemy still continued to work steadily in completing and strengthening his line of circumvallation. His fire of both musketry and artillery was continuous during each day. Major [H. M.] Mathews, ordnance officer, was instructed to have the large number of unexploded Parrott shells scattered around the city sent to Paxton's foundry and recapped.

On the morning of the 29th, the enemy opened a terrific fire from the rear, and for four hours a storm of shot and shell was rained upon the city, seriously damaging many buildings, killing and wounding a large number of soldiers and citizens. During the day Ellet's Marine Brigade arrived, and anchored at the bend above. Two couriers had arrived from General Johnston on the 28th and 29th, respectively. The former

brought 18,000 caps, and the latter 20,000, and the following dispatch, the first received since the 18th:

MAY 25, 1863.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

My last note was returned by the bearer. Two hundred thousand caps have been sent. It will be continued as they arrive. Bragg is sending a division. When it comes, I will move to you. Which do you think the best route? How and where is the enemy encamped? What is your force?

J. E. JOHNSTON.

The 200,000 caps mentioned in the above dispatch were captured by the enemy. I dispatched the following in reply:

Your dispatch of 25th received this evening with 20,000 caps; Fontaine yesterday with 18,000. No messenger from you since 18th. I have 18,000 men to man the lines and river front; no reserves; I do not think you should move with less than 30,000 or 35,000, and then, if possible, toward Snyder's Mill, giving me notice of the time of your approach. The enemy encompasses my lines from right to left flank, occupying all roads. He has three corps—Sherman on my left, McPherson center, McClernand on my right. Hurlbut's division from Memphis and Ellet's Marine Brigade, the last afloat. Enemy has made several assaults. My men are in good spirits, awaiting your arrival. Since investment we have lost about 1,000 men—many officers. You may depend on my holding the place as long as possible. On the 27th we sunk one of their best iron-clad gunboats.

On the 30th, I again dispatched as follows:

Scouts report the enemy to have withdrawn most of his forces from our right yesterday, leaving Hall's Ferry road open, I apprehend, for a movement against you. I expect this courier to return to me.

The meat ration having been reduced one-half, that of sugar, rice, and beans was largely increased. It was important above all things that every encouragement should be given to the troops. With this object in view, I ordered the impressment of chewing tobacco and its issue to the troops. This had a very beneficial influence. The enemy kept steadily at work day and night, and, taking advantage of the cover of the hills, had run his parallels up to within 75 yards of our works. He was also mining at different points, and it required the active and constant attention of our engineers to repair at night the damage inflicted upon our works during the day, and to meet his different mines by counter-mining. Orders were issued to prepare thunder barrels and petards for the defense of weak points, and every precaution was taken to check the enemy in his operations and to delay them as far as possible.

On June 7, the following dispatch was sent to General Johnston:

I am still without information from you later than your dispatch of the 25th. The enemy continues to intrench his position around Vicksburg. I have sent out couriers to you almost daily. The same men are constantly in the trenches, but are still in good spirits, expecting your approach. The enemy is so vigilant that it is impossible to obtain reliable information. When may I expect you to move, and in what direction? My subsistence may be put down for about twenty days.

On the 10th, I again dispatched as follows:

The enemy bombard day and night, from seven mortars on opposite side of peninsula. He also keeps up constant fire on our lines with artillery and sharpshooters. We are losing many officers and men. I am waiting most anxiously to know your intentions. Have heard nothing of you nor from you since May 25. I shall endeavor to hold out as long as we have anything to eat. Can you not send me a verbal message by a courier crossing the river above or below Vicksburg and swimming across again opposite Vicksburg?

Again, on the 12th, I dispatched as follows:

Courier Walker arrived this morning with caps. No message from you. Very heavy firing yesterday from mortars and on lines.

About this time our provisions, particularly of meat, having become almost exhausted, General Stevenson was instructed to impress all cattle in the city, and the chief commissary directed to sell only one ration per diem to any officer. He was also instructed to issue for bread equal portions of rice and flour, four ounces of each.

About the 13th, Captain Sanders arrived from Jackson via Steele's Bayou with 200,000 percussion-caps, and a day or two subsequent I received the following dispatch from General Johnston:

MAY 29, 1863.

I am too weak to save Vicksburg. Can do no more than attempt to save you and your garrison. It will be impossible to extricate you unless you co-operate and we make mutually supporting movements. Communicate your plans and suggestions, if possible.

On the 14th and 15th, I addressed General Johnston as follows:

VICKSBURG, *June* 14, 1863.

Last night Captain Sanders arrived with 200,000 caps, but brought no information as to your position or movements. The enemy is landing troops in large numbers on Louisiana shore above Vicksburg. They are probably from Memphis, but it may be from Yazoo; I cannot ascertain positively. On the Graveyard road the enemy has run his saps to within 25 yards of our works. He will probably attempt to sink a mine. I shall try to thwart him. I am anxiously expecting to hear from you to arrange for co-operation.

VICKSBURG, *June* 15, 1863.

The enemy has placed several very heavy guns in position against our works, and is approaching them very nearly by sap. His fire is almost continuous. Our men have no relief; are becoming much fatigued, but are still in pretty good spirits. I think your movement should be made as soon as possible. The enemy is receiving re-enforcements. We are living on greatly reduced rations, but I think sufficient for twenty days yet.

The enemy had now placed in position on the peninsula several very heavy guns, the fire of which was very destructive; and though repeated attempts were made, we could not succeed in silencing them.

On the 19th, the following telegram was sent to General Johnston:

The enemy opened all his batteries on our lines about 3.30 o'clock this morning, and continued the heaviest fire we have yet sustained until 8 o'clock, but he did not assault our works. Artillery is reported to have been distinctly heard about 2 a. m. toward and east of Snyder's Mill, supposed to have been an engagement with your troops. On the Graveyard road the enemy's works are within 25 feet of our redan; also very close on Jackson and Baldwin's Ferry roads. I hope you will advance with the least possible delay. My men have been thirty-four days and nights in trenches, without relief, and the enemy within conversation distance. We are living on very reduced rations, and, as you know, are entirely isolated. What aid am I to expect from you? The bearer, Captain [G. D.] Wise, can be confided in.

On the night of the 22d, a party from Cumming's Georgia brigade, Stevenson's division, made a gallant sortie on the Hall's Ferry road, and captured a lieutenant-colonel and 12 men, with their intrenching tools, &c.

On the night of the 23d, a heavy skirmish occurred in front of Cumming's line for the possession of a picket station, which resulted in the repulse of the enemy.

Under date of the 21st, the following dispatch was sent out to General Johnston:

Your dispatches of 14th and 16th received. If it is absolutely impossible, in your opinion, to raise the siege with our combined forces, and that nothing more can be done than to extricate this garrison, I suggest that, giving me full information in time to act, you move by the north of the railroad, drive in the enemy's pickets at night, and at daylight next morning engage him heavily with skirmishers, occupying him during the entire day, and that on that night I move by the Warrenton road by Hankinson's Ferry, to which point you should previously send a brigade of cavalry, with two field batteries, to build a bridge there and hold that ferry; also Hall's and Baldwin's, to cover my crossing at Hankinson's. I shall not be able to move with my artillery or

wagons. I suggest this as the best plan, because all the other roads are too strongly intrenched and the enemy in too heavy force for a reasonable prospect of success, unless you move in sufficient force to compel him to abandon his communication with Snyder's, which I still hope we may be able to do. I await your orders. Captain [J. M.] Couper understands all my views, and will explain further.

I insert here two dispatches from General Johnston received about this time, one of which is acknowledged in my letter above:

JUNE 14, 1863.

All that we can attempt is to save you and your garrison. To do this, exact co-operation is indispensable. By fighting the enemy simultaneously at the same point of his line, you may be extricated. Our joint forces cannot raise the siege of Vicksburg. My communications with the rear can best be preserved by operating north of railroad. Inform me as soon as possible what point will suit you best. Your dispatches of the 12th received. General Taylor, with 8,000 men, will endeavor to open communication with you from Richmond.

JUNE 22, 1863.

Your dispatch of the 15th received. General Taylor is sent by General E. Kirby Smith to co-operate with you from the west bank of the river, to throw in supplies, and to cross with his force, if expedient and practicable. I will have the means of moving toward the enemy in a day or two, and will try to make a diversion in your favor, and, if possible, communicate with you, though I fear my force is too small to effect the latter. I have only two-thirds of the force you told Messenger Saunders to state to me as the least with which I ought to make an attempt. Scouts report the enemy fortifying toward us and the roads blocked. If I can do nothing to relieve you, rather than surrender the garrison, endeavor to cross the river at the last moment if you and General Taylor communicate.

Late in the afternoon of the 25th, the enemy exploded his first mine under the parapet of General Forney's works. In his official report that officer says:

The explosion effected a breach, through which the enemy immediately attempted to charge, but was promptly and gallantly repulsed. The Sixth Missouri Regiment, which had been held in reserve, was on the spot immediately after the explosion, and its commander (Col. Eugene Erwin) was instantly killed while attempting to lead a charge over the works. Six men of the Forty-third Mississippi Regiment, who were in a shaft countermining at the time of the explosion, were buried and lost. At dark the enemy had possessed himself of the ditch and slope of the parapet, and our forces retired to an interior line a few feet back. This point was now re-enforced by Colonel [F. M.] Cockrell's brigade, of Bowen's division, and work was resumed by the enemy and by us, they mining and we countermining.

From this time until the 1st [July] nothing of moment occurred. On that day, however, the enemy sprung another mine on the right of the Jackson road, which is thus spoken of by General Forney in his report:

The result was the entire demolition of the redan, leaving only an immense chasm where it stood. The greater portion of the earth was thrown toward the enemy, the line of least resistance being in that direction. Our interior line was much injured. Nine men who were countermining were necessarily lost, and a large number of those manning the works were killed and wounded. The enemy, however, made no attempt to charge, seeming satisfied with having materially weakened the position. I understand that the amount of powder used by the enemy in this explosion was one ton. While all this was taking place on the Jackson road, the enemy was by no means idle at other points. At the work on the Baldwin's Ferry road, his sappers had nearly reached the ditch. At this place we sprung a countermine, which was, unfortunately, a little premature.

From this time forward our engineers were kept constantly and busily employed in countermining against the enemy, who was at work day and night in mining on different portions of the line. About this time, our stock of bacon having been almost exhausted, the experiment of using mule meat as a substitute was tried, it being issued only to those who desired to use it, and I am gratified to say it was found by both

officers and men not only nutritious, but very palatable, and every way preferable to poor beef.

I have already given *in extenso* the several letters received from General Johnston up to this time, and my replies thereto. In this connection I take occasion to introduce General Johnston's letter of June 27, which was never received by me, but a copy of which General Johnston was kind enough to furnish.

JUNE 27, 1863.

Your dispatch of the 22d received. General E. K. Smith's troops have been mismanaged, and have fallen back to Delhi. I have sent a special messenger, urging him to assume direct command. The determined spirit you manifest and his expected co-operation encourage me to hope something may yet be done to save Vicksburg, and to postpone both the modes suggested of merely extricating the garrison. Negotiations with Grant for the relief of the garrison, should they become necessary, must be made by you. It would be a confession of weakness on my part, which I ought not to make, to propose them. When it becomes necessary to make terms, they may be considered as made under my authority.

To preserve the continuity of the narrative, and that events may be mentioned in the order of their dates, I also give General Johnston's letter of July 3, which was received by me on the 10th:

CAMP NEAR BIRDSONG FERRY, *July* 3, [1863.]

Your dispatches of the 28th were destroyed by messenger. He states that General Smith's troops were driven back to Monroe. This statement and his account of your condition make me think it necessary to create a diversion, and thus enable you to cut your way out if the time has arrived for you to do this. Of that time I cannot judge; you must, as it depends upon your condition. I hope to attack the enemy in your front the 7th, and your co-operation will be necessary. The manner and the proper point for you to bring the garrison out must be determined by you, from your superior knowledge of the ground and distribution of the enemy's forces. Our firing will show you where we are engaged. If Vicksburg cannot be saved, the garrison must.

On July 1, I felt satisfied that the time had arrived when it was necessary either to evacuate the city and cut my way out or to capitulate upon the best attainable terms. My own inclination led me to favor the former. With this view, therefore, I addressed to my division commanders—Generals Stevenson, Forney, Smith, and Bowen—the following communication:

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Vicksburg, July 1, 1863.

GENERAL: Unless the siege of Vicksburg is raised or supplies are thrown in, it will become necessary very shortly to evacuate the place. I see no prospect of the former, and there are many great, if not insuperable, obstacles in the way of the latter. You are, therefore, requested to inform me with as little delay as possible as to the condition of your troops, and their ability to make the marches and undergo the fatigues necessary to accomplish a successful evacuation. You will, of course, use the utmost discretion while informing yourself through your subordinates upon all points tending to a clear elucidation of the subjects of my inquiry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

The next day I received a reply from each of these officers, which is herewith submitted:

HEADQUARTERS STEVENSON'S DIVISION,
Vicksburg, July 2, 1863.

GENERAL: Your note (confidential) of yesterday, requesting me to inform you as to the condition of my troops and their ability to make the marches and undergo the fatigue necessary to accomplish a successful evacuation of this city, was duly received, and I have the honor to reply thereto as follows: My men are very cheerful, but from long confinement (more than forty-five days) in the trenches on short rations, are necessarily much enfeebled, and a considerable number would be unable to make the marches and undergo the fatigues which would probably be necessary to a successful

evacuation of this city. If pressed by the enemy, and it should be necessary to place the Big Black in our rear in one march, the chances are that a large number of them now in the trenches could not succeed. I believe, however, that most of them, rather than be captured, would exert themselves to the utmost to accomplish it. I respectfully transmit herewith the opinions of my brigade commanders on these points.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS,
Near Vicksburg, July 2, 1863.

GENERAL: In reply to your confidential note of yesterday, requesting to be informed as to the condition of my troops and their ability to make the marches and undergo the fatigues necessary to accomplish a successful evacuation, as heartrending as the reply may be, I have to state that I concur in the unanimous opinion of the brigade and regimental commanders, that the physical condition and health of our men are not sufficiently good to enable them to accomplish successfully the evacuation. The spirit of the men is still, however, unshaken, and I am satisfied they will cheerfully continue to bear the fatigues and privations of the siege. I inclose herewith for your further information the brigade reports.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. FORNEY,
Major-General.

DIVISION HEADQUARTERS, *July 2*, 1863.

GENERAL: Your note of yesterday desires of me a reply on two points, viz: The condition of my troops, and their ability to make the marches and undergo the fatigue necessary to a successful evacuation of this place. The length of the marches and the amount of fatigue necessary to a successful evacuation not being indicated, I confine myself to giving the following information and opinions: There are about 3,000 men in my division, including State troops, in a condition to undertake a march of 8 or 10 miles a day in this weather, if there is an opportunity of resting at intervals. Out of these 3,000, only about 2,000 are considered reliable in case we are strongly opposed and much harassed. A secret evacuation I consider almost impossible, on account of the temper of many in my command, who would, of necessity, be left behind, not to mention their natural timidity when left alone, which would induce them to at once get into communication with the enemy for their own fancied safety. I would really expect the enemy to become aware of the movement before my command had cleared the right of our line. It is proper to mention that the 2,000 alluded to have suffered severely in the loss of field officers during the siege; and while their individual bravery remains the same, they will be more readily thrown into confusion from want of officers to handle them, if forced to halt and go through any formation to oppose an enemy. In other words, while under the impression that the troops will to-day resist an assault as obstinately, or perhaps more so, as when they first manned the trenches, I do not think they would do as well out of them and in the field.

I believe that General Johnston either has or will fight Grant, and my hope has been that he would be successful and in time to relieve us. At present, however, I see no chance of timely relief from him, and his dispatches have never indicated a hope of being able to raise the siege. Under these circumstances, I deem it best to propose terms of capitulation before forced to do so from want of provisions.

The following, although not called for by your note, is respectfully stated on account of a personal conversation had some days since. In regard to evacuating with or without entering into terms of agreement with the enemy, I should much prefer the former. There is to my mind no practical difference between giving up a place openly or secretly.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. L. SMITH,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS BOWEN'S DIVISION,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 2, 1863.

GENERAL: In reply to your inquiry of this morning in regard to the condition of my command to force their way through the enemy's lines in case that the necessity should arise to evacuate this position, I have the honor to state that my men are in as good, if not better spirits, than any others in the line, and able to stand as much fatigue, yet I do not consider them capable (physically) of enduring the hardships incident to such an undertaking. Forty-five days' incessant duty day and night, with short rations, the wear of both mind and body incident to our situation, has had a marked effect upon them, and I am satisfied they cannot give battle and march over

10 or 12 miles in the same day. In view of the fact that General Johnston has never held out the slightest hope to us that the siege could be raised; that his demonstration in our favor to relieve this exhausted garrison would of necessity be sufficient to raise it, I see no alternative but to endeavor to rescue the command by making terms with the enemy. Under the most favorable circumstances, were we to cut our way out, we could not, in my opinion, save two-thirds of our present effective strength. No provision could be made for our wounded who fell in the attempt, or those we leave behind in the hospitals, and our army would reach General Johnston (if we should get through) a mere handful of broken-down stragglers. I would, therefore, recommend that an immediate proposition be made to capitulate. If accepted, we get everything we have any right to hope for; if rejected, we can still hold out stubbornly for some days, and our enemy may make the proposal to us. When our rations are exhausted, or nearly so, we may accept a surrender with the condition of a general parole instead of imprisonment for the command. If the offer is made at once, we have a better chance of making terms than when we have only one day's resistance in store in case of a refusal. The proposition coming from us, if rejected, will make our men determined to fight to the last; theirs, on the contrary, will feel that after Vicksburg has been offered, their blood is shed to gratify a mere vindictive feeling against its garrison, whose only fault has been the noble defense they have made, and I believe that numbers of the enemy have still enough manhood to admire our courage and determination and urge liberal terms of capitulation.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Major-General.

The opinions of General Stevenson's brigade commanders will be found in that officer's report,* while those of General Forney's are presented in the appendix to this. So far as I know, not a solitary brigade or regimental commander favored the scheme of cutting out, and only two, whose views were presented to me, intimated the possibility of making more than one-half of their commands available for that purpose. With this unanimous opinion of my officers against the practicability of a successful evacuation, and no relief from General Johnston, a surrender with or without terms was the only alternative left me. I therefore addressed the following note to Major-General Grant:

HEADQUARTERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces:

GENERAL: I have the honor to propose to you an armistice for several hours, with a view to arranging terms for the capitulation of Vicksburg. To this end, if agreeable to you, I will appoint three commissioners to meet a like number, to be named by yourself, at such place and hour to-day as you may find convenient.

I make this proposition to save the further effusion of blood, which must otherwise be shed to a frightful extent, feeling myself fully able to maintain my position for a yet indefinite period.

This communication will be handed you under a flag of truce by Maj. Gen. John S. Bowen.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

In the course of two hours the annexed reply was received:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In the Field, near Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: Your note of this date is just received, proposing an armistice for several hours, for the purpose of arranging terms of capitulation through commissioners to be appointed, &c.

The useless effusion of blood you propose stopping by this course can be ended at any time you may choose, by an unconditional surrender of the city and garrison.

* See siege of Vicksburg, Part II, p. 347.

Men who have shown so much endurance and courage as those now in Vicksburg will always challenge the respect of an adversary, and I can assure you will be treated with all the respect due to prisoners of war.

I do not favor the proposition of appointing commissioners to arrange terms of capitulation, because I have no terms other than those indicated above.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

Upon the return of General Bowen with this letter, I understood that it was the desire of Major-General Grant to have a personal conference with me, and this being agreed to, at 3 p. m., accompanied by General Bowen and Captain [L. M.] Montgomery (then supposed to be a lieutenant-colonel), I proceeded to the lines, where I met General Grant surrounded by a number of his officers. I soon learned that there was a mutual misunderstanding in regard to the desire for this interview, and therefore informed General Grant that if he had no terms to propose other than were contained in his letter, the conference could terminate and hostilities be resumed immediately. After some further conversation, he proposed that General Bowen and Captain Montgomery and two of his officers (Major-Generals McPherson and Smith) should retire for consultation, and suggest such terms as they might think proper for our consideration. After some conversation between these officers, we parted, with the understanding that General Grant would communicate with me by 10 p. m., and about that hour the following letter was received:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss.:

GENERAL: In conformity with agreement of this afternoon, I will submit the following proposition for the surrender of the city of Vicksburg, public stores, &c.:

On your accepting the terms proposed, I will march in one division as a guard, and take possession at 8 a. m. to-morrow. As soon as rolls can be made out, and paroles signed by officers and men, you will be allowed to march out of our lines, the officers taking with them their side-arms and clothing, and the field, staff, and cavalry officers one horse each. The rank and file will be allowed all their clothing, but no other property. If these conditions are accepted, any amount of rations you may deem necessary can be taken from the stores you now have, and also the necessary cooking utensils for preparing them. Thirty wagons also, counting two two-horse or mule teams as one, will be allowed to transport such articles as cannot be carried along.

The same conditions will be allowed to all sick and wounded officers and soldiers as fast as they become able to travel.

The paroles for these latter must be signed, however, while officers are present authorized to sign the roll of prisoners.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

This letter was immediately submitted to a council of general officers. My own inclination was to reject these terms, but after some discussion I addressed General Grant as follows:

HEADQUARTERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, proposing terms of capitulation for this garrison and post.

In the main, your terms are accepted; but in justice both to the honor and spirit of my troops, manifested in the defense of Vicksburg, I have to submit the following amendments, which, if acceded to by you, will perfect the agreement between us:

At 10 a. m. to-morrow I propose to evacuate the works in and around Vicksburg, and to surrender the city and garrison under my command, by marching out with

my colors and arms, stacking them in front of my present lines, after which you will take possession.

Officers to retain their side-arms and personal property, and the rights and property of citizens to be respected.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

Early on the morning of the 4th, the following reply was received:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., July 4, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding Confederate Forces, Vicksburg, Miss:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication of July 3. The amendment proposed by you cannot be acceded to in full. It will be necessary to furnish every officer and man with a parole signed by himself, which, with the completion of the rolls of prisoners, will necessarily take some time.

Again, I can make no stipulations with regard to the treatment of citizens and their private property. While I do not propose to cause them any undue annoyance or loss, I cannot consent to leave myself under any restraint by stipulations. The property which officers will be allowed to take with them will be as stated in my proposition of last evening; that is, officers will be allowed their private baggage and side-arms, and mounted officers one horse each.

If you mean by your proposition for each brigade to march to the front of the lines now occupied by it, and stack arms at 10 a. m., and then return to the inside, and there remain as prisoners until properly paroled, I will make no objection to it.

Should no notification be received of your acceptance of my terms by 9 a. m., I shall regard them as having been rejected, and shall act accordingly. Should these terms be accepted, white flags should be displayed along your lines to prevent such of my troops as may not have been notified from firing upon your men.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

In response to this note, I immediately dispatched the following, accepting the terms of surrender as modified by General Grant:

HEADQUARTERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 4, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding United States Forces, &c.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this day, and in reply to say that the terms proposed by you are accepted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

These terms, it may be proper to add, were approved by every division and brigade commander with one exception (Brigadier-General [W. E.] Baldwin), who, without offering any objection to them, insisted upon holding out, but assigned no reason for it. In accordance with this agreement, the garrison was surrendered at 10 a. m., and the Federal forces immediately took possession of our works and placed guards in the city. If it should be asked why July 4 was selected as the day for the surrender, the answer is obvious. I believed that upon that day I should obtain better terms. Well aware of the vanity of our foes, I knew they would attach vast importance to the entrance on July 4 into the stronghold of the great river, and that to gratify their national vanity they would yield then what could not be extorted from them at any other time. This question of time was also discussed by a council of my general officers, and my views concurred in.

The assertion that the surrender of Vicksburg was compelled by the want of subsistence, or that the garrison was starved out, is one entirely destitute of truth. There was at no time any absolute suffering for

want of food among the garrison. That the men were put upon greatly reduced rations is undeniably true; but, in the opinion of many medical officers, it is at least questionable whether under all the circumstances this was at all injurious to their health. It must be remembered that for forty-seven days and nights these heroic men had been exposed to burning suns, drenching rains, damp fogs, and heavy dews, and that during all this period they never had by day or by night the slightest relief. The extent of our works required every available man in the trenches, and even then they were in many places insufficiently manned. It was not in my power to relieve any portion of the line for a single hour. Confined to the narrow limits of a trench, with their limbs cramped and swollen, without exercise, constantly exposed to a murderous storm of shot and shell, while the enemy's unerring sharpshooters stood ready to pick off every one visible above the parapets, is it strange that the men grew weak and attenuated? They had made a most heroic defense. Many had met death with a smile upon their lips, all had cheerfully encountered danger, and almost without a murmur had borne privations and hardships well calculated to test their manhood. They had held the place against an enemy five times their number, admirably clothed and fed, and abundantly supplied with all the appliances of war. Whenever the foe attempted an assault, they drove him back discomfited, covering the ground with his killed and wounded, and already had they torn from his grasp five stand of colors as trophies of their prowess, none of which were allowed to fall again into his hands. Knowing the anxious desire of the Government to relieve Vicksburg, I felt assured that if within the compass of its power the siege would be raised, but when forty-seven weary days and nights had passed, with the knowledge I then possessed that no adequate relief was to be expected, I felt that I ought not longer to place in jeopardy the brave men whose lives had been intrusted to my care. Hence, after the suggestion of the alternative of cutting my way out, I determined to make terms, not because my men were starved out, not because I could not hold out yet a little longer, but because they were overpowered by numbers, worn down with fatigue, and each day saw our defenses crumbling beneath their feet. The question of subsistence, therefore, had nothing whatever to do with the surrender of Vicksburg. With an unlimited supply of provisions, the garrison could not, for the reasons already given, have held out much longer.

My previous dispatches from General Johnston had not made me very sanguine of relief, and his dispatch of June 22 was not calculated to render me more hopeful. He said:

> General Taylor is sent by General E. K. Smith to co-operate with you from the west bank of the river, to throw in supplies and to cross with his force, if expedient and practicable. I will have the means of moving toward the enemy in a day or two, and will try to make a diversion in your favor, and, if possible, communicate with you, though I fear my force is too small to effect the latter. * * * If I can do nothing to relieve you, rather than surrender the garrison, endeavor to cross the river at the last moment, if you and General Taylor can communicate.

I never received any communication from Major-General Taylor on the subject of co-operation, nor had I any knowledge of his whereabouts or of his forces, and I heard no more from General Johnston until July 10, when I received his dispatch of the 3d in Vicksburg from the bearer, who had been several days confined and a prisoner to the Federal authorities. Had I received General Johnston's dispatch of June 27, in which he encouraged the hope that both Vicksburg and the garrison might be saved, I would have lived upon an ounce a day and have con-

tinued to meet the assaults of all Grant's army rather than have surrendered the city until General Johnston had realized or relinquished that hope; but I did not receive his dispatch until August 20, in Gainesville, Ala., nor had I the most remote idea that such an opinion was entertained by General Johnston. He had for weeks ignored its possibility. I had notified him on June 15 that I had enough to subsist my army for yet twenty days, but he held out no hope of raising the siege.

On May 25, thirty-four days previous, he had informed me that on the arrival of an expected division from Bragg's army he would "move to me." I supposed then, with my co-operation, to raise the siege. No subsequent dispatch from him sustained my understanding of his communication; all, without exception, of later date, spoke only of the possibility of extricating the garrison. His dispatch of July 3, received by me six days after the capitulation, held out no such hope, and I am fully and entirely satisfied that no efficient aid would have been given me even to effect an evacuation. I do not mean nor desire to be understood as implying that it might have been given me. I only express my conviction, that had I been able to hold the enemy at bay for yet a month, I do not believe, anxious as I was to co-operate, that I would have been relieved by any force from the outside.

In a dispatch of the 16th, I think (for I have not the copy), I suggested that, as General Johnston deemed it impracticable to do more than by possibility relieve the garrison, a proposition from him for an evacuation of Vicksburg might be favorably entertained by General Grant. In his dispatch of the 27th, already alluded to and previously copied, will be found his views on that point.

The dispatch of June 22 from General Johnston rendered it painfully apparent that the siege could not be raised. To cross the Mississippi River, as suggested, in the face of the enemy's gunboats and land batteries, was an impossibility; and unless this was effected, the defense which had been so long and gallantly maintained ceased to be of any practical utility. Proud as I was of my brave troops, honoring them, as I did and do, for the courage, fortitude, and constancy they had so nobly displayed, I felt that it would be an act of cruel inhumanity to subject them longer to the terrible ordeal to which for so many days and nights they had already been exposed. Brain and sinew will alike wear out; the bravest may be overpowered by numbers; and I saw no advantage to be gained by protracting a hopeless defense, which I knew must be attended with a useless waste of life and blood. I had, then, to choose between such favorable terms as I might be able to obtain and an unconditional surrender, or subject the garrison and the citizens (including hundreds of women and children) to the horrors of an assault, which I could no longer hope to repel.

Much, and I think unmerited, obloquy has been cast upon me by a large portion of the public press for an imputed failure to provide adequately for the subsistence of the garrisons of Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The Government and my immediate military superior, perhaps better informed of facts, have, so far as I am aware, refrained from censure, reserving a decision until a full investigation shall have determined to what extent, if any, it is deserved.

Immediately on assuming command of the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana, on October 14, 1862, I gave my earnest and unremitting attention to the reorganization of the several staff departments and to the great question of supplies. It is unnecessary to speak of the confusion and general want of system which prevailed. I found most of the district commanders exercising the authority which pertained

only to a department commander, or to a general commanding an army in the field. Each appeared to be in a great measure acting independently of the other. To some considerable extent this seemed to be necessary under the existing circumstances. Major-General Van Dorn was in the immediate command of the army at Holly Springs, and it naturally engaged most of his attention. General Bragg, to whose department the geographical districts (just organized into a separate department) had been attached, was too far removed to permit him to give his personal supervision. It resulted almost necessarily from this state of things that but little attention had been given to the accumulation of supplies. No depots of importance existed within the limits of the department, nor had any measures been taken to establish them. Much of the season best suited to the collection of stores from the Trans-Mississippi had gone by. They were undoubtedly abundant there, but my command did not embrace that district of country. I had no control over the steamboats in Red River. It was one thing to purchase supplies, but another to transport them. Most of the boats were engaged in carrying sugar, molasses, and salt either for private parties or for the Government. There was great opposition on the part of owners at every attempt to divert them from these purposes. The Government was appealed to against what was styled the violation of the rights of the citizen by the military authorities. It required time to ascertain what was needed to be done, and time to acquire the means of its accomplishment.

On October 25, the necessary orders were issued to procure and transport supplies from the parishes of Pointe Coupée, Concordia, and Tensas. Major [R. H.] Cuney, then chief commissary, was directed to confer with Lieut. Col. [W. A.] Broadwell, agent of the Commissary-General, then in the Trans-Mississippi Department, but to make arrangements for supplying this department without relying upon him. Major [Edward] Dillon, commissary of the army with Major-General Van Dorn, was directed to use every effort to subsist it from the northern and northwestern counties. For several months after I entered upon duty in the department, there was not water enough to admit of the passage into the Mississippi of the larger boats, which had been run up the Yazoo or Red River for safety. As early as the latter part of October, I authorized the opening of the raft in the Yazoo, that the smaller boats might pass out. Notwithstanding the violent opposition of private parties, very many of them were immediately taken either into the permanent employ of the Government or chartered as supplies could be obtained. The transportation of sugar and molasses, owned by the Government and by speculators, interfered materially with the rapid accumulation of other supplies. When, however, about January 1, the larger boats were able to enter the Mississippi, a sufficient number was at once put into requisition for Government transportation, and a large amount of corn and bacon was thrown into Vicksburg and Port Hudson from the Trans-Mississippi Department. I regret, however, to say that from want of proper care and energy upon the part of those responsible for its safe-keeping, a large quantity of corn which had been landed on the shore was removed so slowly, and so little precaution used to secure it from the effects of the heavy rains of the season, that much was destroyed by that cause, and much was carried off by the rapid rise of the river. It happened that just at this time, about January 10, I made an official visit to Port Hudson, and was myself a witness of the consequences of this neglect at that point.

On January 14, I addressed the following letter to Lieutenant-Colonel

[W. A.] Broadwell, agent of the Commissary-General and also for my department, under my immediate instructions:

Purchase bacon for this department; if possible, buy several million pounds. Also send, if you can, a few thousand live hogs to Port Hudson and Vicksburg. If the present navigation should be interrupted, try to get the hogs across the river, so that they can be driven to the interior of the State and rendered available for the use of the troops. If nothing better can be done, you will contract with energetic men to get from Texas 200 or 300 wagons loaded with bacon, the meat to be paid for by the chief of subsistence of this department, the transportation settled by the quartermaster, and the wagons and teams taken at fair valuation by the Government. You had better attend to salt first, to bacon next, and to sugar afterward. You are properly accredited to commanding generals elsewhere, who are requested to assist you in accomplishing my wishes as herein indicated.

I was extremely desirous at this time to procure a sufficient supply of salt to enable me to cure bacon, and with that purpose an order was issued prohibiting the exportation of hogs from the department. The difficulty of obtaining salt in sufficient quantity at the proper season prevented the success of this plan to any great extent. Though extremely anxious at this time to purchase all the meat possible, I did not think it advisable to make large purchases of corn from the Trans-Mississippi for Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and Lieutenant-Colonel Broadwell was so notified. It has already been shown that the large amount at Port Hudson had not been properly secured, and more was still being delivered. The enemy's attempt on Vicksburg via Chickasaw Bayou had just signally failed, and his troops been withdrawn and re-embarked.

Before January 1, supplies from Deer Creek and Sunflower could not be brought down, owing to the low stage of water, and when the rise of those streams admitted of their being landed at Snyder's Mill, the character of the soil and the roads over which the wagons must pass was such as to render transportation almost utterly impracticable. I had, however, appropriated 100 wagons for that especial purpose.

In a communication dated February 26, General Stevenson says:

During wet weather we cannot use the dirt road from Haynes' Bluff to this point (Vicksburg). The passage of our train of over 100 wagons would render it impassable in one day; besides, not being able to haul more than a quarter load, it would prevent its being kept in good order. To relieve it at such times, grain should be obtained by railroad, but it, as now managed, cannot be relied on.

There was an abundance of corn in the department, but in very many instances planters refused to sell except for cash payments, and the great delay in forwarding funds embarrassed me exceedingly.

On January 20, I telegraphed as follows to the honorable Secretary of War:

Unless funds are sent immediately to Maj. Theodore Johnston, chief commissary of subsistence of the department, the army cannot be supplied. Estimates have been forwarded. Please have money sent at once.

During this time stores in large quantity were being rapidly collected at various depots, but the difficulty of transportation, owing to the wretched condition of the Southern Railroad, the obstacles that were continually thrown in the way by railroad authorities, and the clamor raised at any attempt of mine to make private interests subservient to Government necessities, had the effect of preventing effectually the rapid accumulation of supplies. Positive prohibition had been issued from the War Department against the interference of commanding generals or other officers with railroad transportation. Immediately on the re-

ceipt of this prohibition, I telegraphed the Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond:

If I cannot control the railroads in this department, the business of the department and subsistence of the troops will fail. I beg that Colonel [William M.] Wadley may be sent here at once.

Arrangements had been made, as already stated, as fully as the means at my disposal would admit, to transfer supplies from Snyder's Mill to Vicksburg, and the chief of subsistence was positively directed to keep constantly on hand a supply for not less than sixty days. Similar instructions were given to the chief quartermaster of the department. Every possible effort was made to carry out my orders. If I failed in the full accomplishment of my wishes, it was from circumstances utterly beyond my control. It must be remembered that almost continuous movements of troops and ordnance were necessary, in consequence of the persistent efforts of the enemy from about the middle of December to the date of the investment of Vicksburg.

About February 10, the enemy began his movement through the Yazoo Pass. None but our smallest boats could be employed in the upper waters from this date until the enemy abandoned his designs, not only by the Pass and Tallahatchee, but also by the Sunflower and Deer Creek. The boats which were employed in bringing down supplies from those small streams were frequently and necessarily diverted to the transportation of troops and munitions of war. Early in February, also, the enemy succeeded in passing two of his gunboats by our batteries at Vicksburg. This at once rendered the navigation of the Mississippi and Red Rivers dangerous, and from that time forth it was only by watching opportunities and at great risk of capture that supplies could be thrown into Port Hudson and Vicksburg; nevertheless, large amounts were successfully introduced into both places (into the latter via Big Black). Port Hudson, however, received much the larger portion, being easier of access. In addition to the efforts made by agents under my own instructions to supply Port Hudson, the chief of subsistence of the department was ordered on February 18 to furnish Major-General Gardner's commissary with ample funds to meet the demands of the service.

About the middle of the same month, believing it to be highly probable that not only the subsistence of my own army but also that of General Bragg's might be dependent upon the supplies of the country intersected by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, I issued positive orders that neither grain nor meat should be allowed to leave the department by that road. The condition of the Southern Railroad daily growing worse in consequence of the heavy rains and its light structure, every effort was made on my part to aid the managers in its speedy and effectual repair. A communication urging its importance in a military point of view was addressed to His Excellency the Governor of the State, of February 20, asking his assistance by the impressment of negroes to labor on it, the vice-president having informed me that planters would not hire their hands.

On February 28 and on March 2, instructions were again sent to Lieutenant-Colonel Broadwell to purchase all the meat possible at the price suggested by him, and [he was] notified also that beef could then be crossed safely, and to send forward all he could control.

March 1, Brigadier-General Ruggles was directed by telegraph as follows:

You must give every possible assistance in procuring within your district all the

corn, beeves, and bacon or salted pork that can be had, and forward as rapidly as possible for army at Vicksburg. Purchase from planters at the lowest prices you can, and impress all in hands of speculators at same rate.

About the same time Major-General Taylor, commanding West Louisiana, was respectfully urged to have all the beeves, bacon, and salted pork possible forwarded, and it gives me much pleasure to add that I am greatly indebted to his active exertions, as well as to Lieutenant-Colonel Broadwell, for large supplies of corn and meat.

On March 23, the following letter was received from Lieutenant-Colonel Broadwell:

ALEXANDRIA, LA., *March* 17, 1863.

GENERAL: Four steamboats arrived here to-day from Shreveport and Jefferson, loaded chiefly with corn. One of them had 300,000 pounds of bacon; three others (the Charm, Texas, and Frolic) are reported coming down with loads. Five others (the Falls City, Louisville, Starlight, General Hodges, and Nina Sims) are below here, with full cargoes designed for Port Hudson, but the Federal gunboats are reported blockading this river. Great God, how unfortunate! We must try to get cattle to Bowman's Landing, 15 miles back of Waterproof, and, if possible, swim them at the latter point; but the cattle here are thin, and may be unfit for beef when they arrive on the other side. In fact, it is doubtful whether many of them ever get through the swamps and bayous through which they are required to pass on this side. As the water declines, I think it likely that cattle in large quantities can be crossed over by swimming, but at present the prospect of your getting supplies from this side is gloomy enough. With the hope, general, that the suspension of steamboat navigation will embarrass you less than is now apprehended,

Very respectfully, &c.,

W. A. BROADWELL.

On the day of its receipt, the above letter was referred to Maj. Theodore Johnston, chief of subsistence, for his information, and was returned with the following indorsement:

OFFICE CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPARTMENT OF MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, March 24, 1863.

Respectfully returned. The following boats have arrived out of Red River and have discharged their cargoes at Port Hudson: Frolic, corn to assistant quartermaster; Louis d'Or, corn to assistant quartermaster; Trent, corn to acting commissary of subsistence; Drover, corn to acting commissary of subsistence; Red Chief, corn to acting commissary of subsistence; Starlight, corn to acting commissary of subsistence; Indian No. 2, corn to acting commissary of subsistence; T. D. Hine, bacon, hogs, and beef, to acting commissary of subsistence. The steamer General Hodges, spoken of, discharged her cargo at Alexandria. The Louisville had 20,000 bushels of corn. The Falls City turned over all her cargo, except 350 barrels of molasses, to steamer T. D. Hine. Lieutenant [George] Cammack left Alexandria on 18th instant, one day later than the communication from Colonel Broadwell.

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

Evidence of a similar character, all showing the constant and earnest efforts made by myself and my officers to secure an ample store of subsistence for Vicksburg and Port Hudson, could be adduced to an indefinite extent, but to give the whole would swell this report to a huge volume. I content myself, therefore, with throwing a number of letters, orders, telegrams, &c., on this subject into an appendix. In the month of March, I was in the receipt of a number of letters from respectable citizens, containing suggestions that were frequently valuable, but unfortunately they were such as should have been made months before, and some of them at a time when I was not in the department. But these suggestions, whether timely and valuable in themselves or not, were rendered worthless to me by reason of the then active military operations on the Yazoo River and its tributaries, which were constantly diverting all of my boats from the important duty of transporting subsistence to the indispensable service of transporting troops and munitions of war.

This was also the case in many instances where provisions were offered me by citizens. I was offered supplies of corn and meat, but at a time when, from the proximity of the enemy and other causes, it was utterly impracticable for me to make them available. In this connection I cannot forbear saying that in nine cases out of ten where subsistence was offered me, the offer carried with it a demand for transportation, which it was entirely out of my power to furnish. To have made purchases under such circumstances would have been simply ridiculous.

A cargo of bacon, which had been run up Choctaw Bayou on April 18 to avoid the enemy's gunboats on Red River, was by the energetic exertions of Mr. Howell Hinds, of Jefferson County, Mississippi, successfully transported from the bayou across the river to Port Gibson. I was extremely anxious to get this meat to Port Hudson, but the difficulties of transportation prevented, and before it could be removed by General Bowen to a point of safety, it became necessary to destroy much of it, to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy. In this connection I again refer to the fact that when I was compelled to abandon Snyder's Mill, there were at least 30,000 bushels of corn at that place. I mention this to show that there was no deficiency of corn in the department, but that the great and, indeed, insuperable obstacle was the want of transportation by dirt road and the almost constant and daily interruption of railroad communication on the Southern road, which was the only means of transportation of subsistence to Vicksburg.

I think I have now shown conclusively that I spared no exertions to have Vicksburg and Port Hudson abundantly provisioned, and that whenever the supply fell short of the demand or of my expectations it was caused by circumstances wholly beyond my control. In this connection I may add that I had at the time of the surrender of Vicksburg about 40,000 pounds of pork and bacon, which had been reserved for the subsistence of my troops in the event of attempting to cut my way out of the city; also, 51,241 pounds of rice, 5,000 bushels of peas, 92,234 pounds of sugar, 3,240 pounds of soap, 527 pounds of tallow candles, 27 pounds of Star candles, and 428,000 pounds of salt.

Much unnecessary clamor has been raised about the want of ammunition in Vicksburg. I have already shown that my supply of ammunition was large, and that the principal, indeed the only, deficiency was in musket-caps. The appendix devoted to the subject of ordnance will demonstrate that I am not responsible for that deficiency, whatever its extent may have been. I therefore beg special attention to my telegrams to Colonel [J.] Gorgas, of the Ordnance Department, for ordnance and ammunition, commenced as early as November, within three weeks after I assumed command of the department, and they were continued persistently up to almost the last hour of uninterrupted communication with Richmond. I believe that the Chief of Ordnance furnished me with everything in his power. I only desire that I may not be held responsible for what the Government could not furnish.

I am unable as yet to give full reports of the casualties at Baker's Creek, Big Black, and during the siege of Vicksburg. They will be forwarded so soon as division commanders shall have rendered them complete. The same with reference to ordnance and ordnance stores.

Very many officers and soldiers have distinguished themselves by particular acts of gallantry, or have rendered themselves conspicuous by untiring exertions and devotion to duty; so many, indeed, as to preclude the possibility of my referring to each in the body of this report. Attention is, therefore, respectfully invited to the appendix and to the reports of division, brigade, and other commanders.

I cannot, however, close without expressing my especial thanks to Maj. Gens. C. L. Stevenson, John H. Forney, and M. L. Smith, and to Brigadier-Generals Barton, Cumming, Lee, and Col. A. W. Reynolds, of General Stevenson's division; to Major-General Forney's brigade commanders (Brigadier-Generals Hébert and Moore); to Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith's brigade commanders (Brigadier-Generals Shoup, Baldwin, and Vaughn); to Colonels [E.] Gates, [T. P.] Dockery, and [F. M.] Cockrell, of Bowen's division, and to Colonel [Edward] Higgins, commanding the heavy batteries, and Colonel [T. N.] Waul, of the Texas Legion. If the most unremitting attention to the arduous duties of their position entitle officers to commendation and respect, they have each and all won it during the protracted and trying siege.

To Maj. Gen. C. L. Stevenson I am particularly indebted for much and valuable aid in many ways during the siege. To his immediate supervision was principally intrusted the subsistence of the troops.

To the officers of my staff I return my sincere thanks for the cheerful and zealous manner in which they have discharged all their duties. Col. Thomas H. Taylor, who accompanied me on the field at Baker's Creek, and who during the siege was assigned to duty as inspector-general and commandant of the post, in both capacities rendered most valuable service.

Maj. Jacob Thompson, inspector-general of the department, also accompanied me on the field, and on that occasion, as on all others, whether in the office or in the active performance of the duties of his department, has ever shown himself zealous and competent. Major Thompson, immediately after the retreat into Vicksburg, was, in company with Major [Sturges] Sprague, dispatched to communicate personally with General Johnston.

Maj. R. W. Memminger, assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff, and Maj. W. H. McCardle, assistant adjutant-general, have for many months been in the constant performance of the arduous and responsible duties pertaining to the adjutant-general's department. It is little to say that on these officers, assisted by Second Lieut. F. M. Stafford, C. S. Army, and acting assistant adjutant-general, has devolved a labor and an amount of business scarcely equaled in any other military department of the Confederacy. Day and night they have devoted themselves to the public service, and I specially commend them and Maj. J. Thompson to the favorable consideration of the Government.

No officer in the department has been more constantly and actively engaged than Maj. Samuel H. Lockett, chief engineer. His professional skill and excellent judgment have been exhibited wherever occasion required it, from Grenada to Port Hudson. During the siege of Vicksburg, none exposed themselves more fearlessly to danger than he and his gallant assistants, Capts. Powhatan Robinson, J. M. Couper, J. J. Conway, D. Wintter, and James [T.] Hogane, and Lieuts. E. W. McMahon, W. O. Flynn, George Donnellan, A. W. Gloster, [R. R.] Southard, ——— Blessing, and Mr. [H.] Ginder. It gives me pleasure to name them and to ask a recognition of their merits.

I consider myself to have been particularly fortunate in the selection of chief quartermaster of the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana. Maj. L. Mims entered upon the duties of that office immediately on my assuming command, and has proved himself eminently qualified for the position. His energy and capacity I have rarely seen equaled. I believe no man could have done more with the means at his disposal. Major Mims was greatly aided by that most excellent and efficient officer, Maj. George Whitfield, quartermaster in charge of transportation

department. Maj. Theo. Johnston, chief of subsistence, has been untiring in his efforts to provide for so large a command. He had great difficulties to contend with and generally has met them successfully. I am also greatly indebted to Maj. A. B. Cooke, my chief paymaster, for the ability and energy he has displayed in the execution of the business of his office.

To Maj. G. L. Gillespie, chief commissary of General Stevenson's division, and acting chief commissary of the army during the siege, I owe my thanks. Much is due to his energy and good judgment. Also to Major [Richard] Orme, General Stevenson's chief quartermaster.

Surg. E. H. Bryan, acting medical director of the army of Vicksburg, accompanied me on the field, and performed all his duties there and during the siege to my entire satisfaction.

Capt. [J.] Brice, ordnance storekeeper, displayed great ability and devotion to duty during the siege. He was ever where he should have been, and was emphatically the right man in the right place.

Col. C. A. Fuller, inspector of heavy artillery; Lieut. Col. J. S. Saunders (Provisional Army), chief of artillery of the department, performed their respective duties satisfactorily, and Colonel Saunders accompanied me on the field, where he rendered me valuable service.

Col. W. T. Withers, chief of field artillery with the army, was active and attentive to his duties and prompt in the execution of orders. In addition to his duties as chief of artillery, Colonel Withers continued in the command of his regiment. He also accompanied me on the field.

Capt. C. McRae Selph, assistant adjutant-general, on duty with Col. T. H. Taylor, was of great assistance to that excellent officer, more particularly during the siege. He also accompanied me on the field, and was constantly engaged in the transmission of orders.

To my personal staff—Lieut. J. H. Morrison, aide-de-camp; Lieut. J. C. Taylor, aide-de-camp; and Lieut. H. C. Tupper, Twenty-fourth Mississippi Volunteers, and aide-de-camp—I am greatly indebted not only for service on the field, but for much laborious duty in the office, and I commend them to the favorable consideration of the Government.

Capt. L. M. Montgomery, being unable to reach the Trans-Mississippi Department to which he had been assigned, tendered his services as volunteer aide-de-camp. I found him an energetic and gallant officer and a most valuable assistant. To him and to Maj. Sturges Sprague, volunteer aide-de-camp, who also accompanied me on the field and was constantly engaged in the transmission of orders, I tender my sincere thanks. Also to Capt. J. M. Couper, Fourteenth [Twentieth] Mississippi, who served me as volunteer aide-de-camp on the occasion of the battle of Baker's Creek.

Captain [J. W.] Barclay and Lieutenant [Harris] Wilkerson, of Bowen's division, with 50 brave fellows of that command, are entitled to special mention for their gallant conduct on the night of May 30, in burning the sunken gunboat Cincinnati, which they accomplished as far as was practicable with an iron-clad vessel in her condition. They brought off her flag, which I presented to them.

My thanks are also due to the following officers and men, who rendered valuable service in transmitting dispatches through the enemy's lines to and from General Johnston, viz: Captains Hill, Sanders, and Couper, Lieut. G. D. Wise, Lieutenant Smith (of the Twentieth Mississippi Regiment), and Privates [E. G.] Walker and [Charles] McInroe (of Johnson's cavalry), Lamar Fontaine (a discharged soldier), and Private W. H. Webb, of the Twentieth Mississippi Regiment, who twice successfully passed from Vicksburg to General Johnston's headquarters.

Sergt. Thomas P. Lynch, First Louisiana Artillery, commanding the river police, by his vigilance and activity, rendered most valuable services throughout the siege, and is entitled to, as he deserves, the consideration of the Government.

Sergt. R. H. [G.] Gaines, Company K, Twenty-third Alabama Regiment, was conspicuous for his personal gallantry at Baker's Creek. The men at a gun having been all disabled, he served the piece alone, firing from 10 to 15 rounds.

Ordnance Sergt. W. F. Luckett was also distinguished for his coolness and daring, and was killed while carrying ammunition through a very heavy fire.

Private Pudic, of the Nineteenth Arkansas, was also conspicuous for his heroic bearing. Constantly in the thickest of the fight, always in advance of his regiment, unheeding the orders to retire, his gallantry won universal admiration.

To D. H. Huyett, of the engineer corps, my thanks are due. On May 19, I dispatched him to Richmond with maps and valuable papers. In the face of many obstacles he succeeded in passing the enemy's lines, and successfully discharged his mission.

Maj. J. D. Bradford, assistant inspector-general, is entitled to my thanks for valuable and important services on several occasions, and I regret that I was by his illness at the time of the investment deprived of them during the siege.

I cannot close this report without a brief tribute to the memory of two of the best soldiers in the Confederate service. I refer to Maj. Gen. John S. Bowen and Brig. Gen. Martin E. Green. Always faithful, zealous, and brave, they fell as became them in the discharge of their duty. General Green died with a bullet in his brain upon the lines he had so long and so gallantly defended. General Bowen, having passed scathless through the bloody scenes of Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Baker's Creek, and Vicksburg, perished by disease on the march from Vicksburg to Jackson, after the capitulation. I can utter no higher eulogium upon him than to say he always performed his duty and never avoided danger.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.

—

HEADQUARTERS,
Gainesville, Ala., August 26, 1863.

In my report of the operations in Vicksburg, I omitted to mention Maj. H. M. Mathews, chief of ordnance for Stevenson's division and acting chief for the entire command, as entitled to commendation for the active and zealous performance of all his duties. Please make the insertion in my report.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.

[Appendix A.]

Correspondence relative to Subsistence.

COMMISSARY OFFICE, *Canton, March* 7, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON,
Chief of Subsistence, Jackson, Miss.:

DEAR SIR: My agent returned this evening from some of the counties above this place, and has purchased some bacon and corn, which will be in in a few days. He reports a good deal of bacon for sale. Some are willing to take 50 cents; some ask as much as 75 cents a pound. He says the farmers are expecting to have their meat impressed, and will not sell until it is impressed, and then they will be willing to divide, believing that if they sell all they can spare, an order might come to impress the balance. My agent says that by setting the price at 50 cents, and an order to impress, he thinks he can get some 30,000 or 50,000 pounds in two or three counties above here.

Very respectfully, &c.,

W. W. MERIWETHER,
Captain and Acting Commissary of Subsistence.

—

MACON, MISS., *March* 7, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON:

Colonel Baskerville, of Columbus, Miss., has an agent here whom he has instructed to pay 70 cents for bacon. What can be expected for us to do when such a course is permitted by Government agents?

[W. C.] DOWD,
[C. M.] BOYCE,
Captains and Acting Commissaries of Subsistence.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *March* 7, 1863.

Captains DOWD and BOYCE, *Macon, Miss.:*

I know no Government agent by the name of Baskerville. There is a merchant of that name who resides at Columbus. You are authorized to impress bacon in the hands of speculators. No authority has been given to pay 70 cents for bacon. Take the bacon.

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

OFFICE CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPT. MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, March 9, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson:

MAJOR: Inclosed I have the honor to forward consolidated report of commissary stores at the different posts and depots within the department. Since the 1st instant, I have had about 900 hogs at Port Hudson slaughtered, which will increase the salt-meat rations about 300,000; 1,000 hogs I have ordered sent to Vicksburg. It is too late now to attempt to cure meat, and I have ordered hogs killed and issued to the troops at that place. By doing this, I think I will have a sufficiency of

meat to subsist the troops well until beef-cattle can be furnished. There have been received at Vicksburg since this report was made up 600,000 rations of rice and other stores that were *in transitu* on the Mobile and Ohio and Mississippi Central Railroads. Many of the stores that were on these roads are not reported at all, for the reason that they were shipped before the 1st instant, and not received prior to that date at Vicksburg. It will be seen by reference to the report that there is a larger accumulation of stores at Port Hudson than elsewhere; a portion of them has been ordered to Vicksburg. There is a boat recently out of Red River, now in Big Black, with 180,000 rations of bacon, 530 hogs, and 3,000 pounds of lard for Vicksburg. The railroads being now in running condition, large quantities of stores will be sent to Vicksburg from points on these roads. Besides the boat now in Big Black, the steamer Hine, with a load of commissary stores out of Red River, is now at Port Hudson.

I am, major, &c.,

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

OFFICE CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPT. MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, March 9, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General:*

MAJOR: Inclosed is a letter from an officer at Canton, and copies of dispatches from officers at Macon, and replies thereto.* I respectfully request that the lieutenant-general commanding determine upon such course as he may deem advisable in relation to the purchase of bacon, bulk pork, and beeves within the department, and authorize impressments of the articles that cannot otherwise be obtained.

I am, major, &c.,

THEO. JOHHSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

JACKSON, *March* 18, 1863.

Maj. Gen. FRANK GARDNER, *Port Hudson:*

* * * * * * *

Reports are daily made to me of the waste of stores at Port Hudson. Whether these reports be true you are best able to determine. I would respectfully request that, in view of the scarcity of subsistence stores and the difficulty of collecting them, you will urge upon the subsistence officers the importance of a proper preservation of all stores that arrive at Port Hudson. * * *

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, Miss., March 18, 1863.

Major [L.] MIMS, *Chief Quartermaster:*

The general desires to know how many wagons he can calculate upon to transport provisions to Port Hudson via Osyka. He directs that, as the roads are in pretty good order, you obtain all the wagons practica-

* Not found.

ble to put on this road. The inclosed letter* he refers to you, as containing many truths and valuable suggestions both for your department and the commissary. He desires the letter to be returned.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. D. BRADFORD,
Major, &c.

—

HEADQUARTERS, &c.,
Jackson, Miss., March 18, 1863.

Major-General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

Put every man at work, if necessary, in unloading the cars. Transportation on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad almost stopped for want of cars. Send Mobile and Ohio cars first. Send all back as fast as unloaded.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HEADQUARTERS, &c.,
Jackson, Miss., March 18, 1863.

Major-General GARDNER, *Port Hudson:*

Send all spare wagons to Osyka, to aid in transportation of supplies.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *March* 18, 1863.

Major-General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

Have every exertion made to repair break in road near Vicksburg. See Colonel [W. M.] Wadley on the subject. The two boats passed Rodney at 4.30 p. m.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *March* 18 [19?], 1863.

Major-General GARDNER, *Port Hudson, Miss.:*

Hartford and Monongahela passed Grand Gulf, going up at 7 a. m. One supply-boat at a time might run down and unload at Port Hudson. It is so important that the risk might be run, but perfect arrangements must be made to destroy her, if necessary. Can you arrange it?

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *March* 19, 1863.

Brigadier-General CHALMERS, *Panola, Miss.:*

Have the bacon and corn forwarded to this point as rapidly as possible.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

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* Not found.

JACKSON, MISS., *March* 19, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War:*

I propose to endeavor to subsist my army as hitherto—have agents with large amount of funds to make purchases of corn, beef, and bacon west of Mississippi River, and also collecting some supplies in this State. The instructions of Commissary-General to Major Johnston to withdraw his agents from west of the Mississippi River, and to make all purchases through Lieutenant-Colonel [W. A.] Broadwell, would upset all my arrangements, and is, besides, impracticable. Colonel Broadwell has not been within this department for about six weeks. I am glad to receive assistance from him, but chief of subsistence of this department must, of course, be under my control. Have released, pursuant to your order, all sugar except six weeks' supply for this department. Navigation of Mississippi River again cut off; neither subsistence nor ordnance can come or go. I hope you will not attribute my acts or requests to any motives but good of the service. I have none other.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *March* 19, 1863.

Major-General GARDNER, *Port Hudson, Miss.:*

If notified by General Stevenson that boats pass up by Vicksburg, send about 200,000 pounds ——— and 10,000 bushels of corn, of that which will arrive by boats at Port Hudson, immediately, up Big Black.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HEADQUARTERS, &c.,
Jackson, March 19, 1863.

Major-General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

GENERAL: I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say that the chief quartermaster and commissary of the department have been directed to instruct their agents engaged in purchasing and transporting supplies of grain along the Yazoo and its tributaries that they will maintain a uniformity of prices, avoiding all competition. It is desired that all instructions as to purchases in this section should come through the chiefs of the departments.

I am, respectfully, &c.,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

HEADQUARTERS, &c.,
Jackson, March 19, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief of Subsistence:*

MAJOR: I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say that in reference to supplies of grain, &c., collected on the Yazoo and its tributaries to be ——— at Snyder's Bluff, you will make such arrangements with Maj. L. Mims, chief quartermaster, both as regards the purchase and transportation of such supplies, as will secure a uniformity in the purchase price and the cost of transportation. You will also see that all your agents obtain and follow such instruction, and

that uniform price is established throughout. You will see that the agent of the commissary of the second military district follows similar instructions. The object to be maintained is uniformity in price, that no competition arise between the agents of the quartermaster's and commissary departments. He also directs you establish on some steam transport a mill for the purpose of grinding corn at such points as is convenient, as he is informed that there are many transports that can be used as such.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, March 20, 1863.

Maj. L. MIMS, *Chief Quartermaster:*

MAJOR: The lieutenant-general commanding directs me to inclose this dispatch to you, and say to you that you will take measures to provide boats to transport troops up the river and supplies down. You will inform him what boats you can obtain. Boats of larger class will be retained for the transportation on the Yazoo, and those of the smaller class kept for the navigation of the small streams and the Tallahatchee. The general desires a complete organization of the boat system on the Yazoo. Such boats as are being armed and clad with cotton will be exempt from these arrangements.

I am, respectfully,

J. D. BRADFORD,
Major, &c.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, March 20, 1863.

Col. B. S. EWELL, *Assistant Adjutant-General, Tullahoma:*

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose the within communication of Major Mims, chief quartermaster, with regard to complaints made against his department, with his reply.* I fully concur, and think the case so palpable as not to require that further be said. Should there be any charges specifically brought against any officer of the quartermaster's or commissary department in this command, I will use every effort to have the case thoroughly investigated. I deem it scarce necessary to say to you that the efforts which have brought complaint against myself and the officers of the quartermaster's and commissary departments acting under my instructions have been entirely for the public good.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, March 20, 1863.

Maj. Gen. RICHARD TAYLOR, *Commanding, &c., Alexandria:*

The lieutenant-general commanding directs me to say, in reply to your letter of 12th instant, that he addressed General Smith only after

* Not found.

repeated assurances from different parties that you had prohibited his agents in the purchase of supplies; that Port Hudson depends almost entirely for supplies on the other side of the river. Further, that he has ever thought and is glad to hear that you are willing to assist him, as he is also to assist you when able.

Very respectfully, &c.,

J. C. TAYLOR,
Aide-de-Camp.

—

MARCH 21, 1863.

* * * * * * *

I found a large quantity of corn on the levee, notwithstanding there had been no arrival previous to the Trent for three or four days. I also noticed on the levee, within a few feet of the water, the 410 barrels of salt which was discharged there more than a month since. I saw many soldiers shelling corn about the landing merely to obtain the cobs to throw at one another. Others were filling their haversacks with shelled corn and corn in the ear. * * * Captain Woods stated that he had seen a large quantity of the bulk pork remain in the rain on the levee for a week, and half the lot was spoiled and unfit for use. * * * Mr. Macauley told me that 25,000 bushels of corn were submerged on the levee at Port Hudson, and several parties stated that more subsistence had been wasted than consumed.

* * * * * * *

GEO. CAMMACK.

—

MARCH 21, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General:*

* * * * * * *

I am informed by Mr. F. D. Conrad, a gentleman of unimpeachable credit, that about the time when the gunboat Queen of the West was captured by our forces, there was a large quantity of corn upon the banks of the river at Port Hudson, which remained unstored for eight or ten days. At the expiration of this time it was removed from the landing and stored in a damaged condition. * * *

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

P. S.—Capt. J. V. Duvalde, of the parish of West Baton Rouge, was in my office when Mr. Conrad made his statement, and said either that he had heard of or had himself seen the condition of commissary stores at Port Hudson stated by Mr. Conrad as existing.

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HEADQUARTERS, &C.,
Jackson, March 21, 1863.

Maj. L. MIMS, *Chief Quartermaster:*

MAJOR: The lieutenant-general commanding directs that you will require the quartermaster at Vicksburg to report to you the arrival of every train of supplies and ordnance, reporting the number of car-loads of each. You will render a similar report to these headquarters.

I am, major, &c.,

J. D. BRADFORD,
Major and Assistant Inspector-General.

JACKSON, *March* 21, 1863.

Major-General GARDNER,
Port Hudson:

Send no boat here until you hear from myself or General Stevenson that the river is clear. I have every confidence of your using every exertion to unload the boats. Telegraph every day the amount of corn and meat on hand.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HEADQUARTERS, &C.,
Jackson, March 21, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON,
Chief of Subsistence:

MAJOR: The lieutenant-general directs that you send a bonded commissary to the Yazoo, with money to make any necessary payments due there, and to purchase supplies not only for the troops at Snyder's Mill, but for General Loring and all the troops in and around the Tallahatchee, Sunflower, and Deer Creek. You can, at your option, employ Mr. John McFarland for this purpose, making him either disbursing and purchasing agent, or simply an agent for the procuring of supplies as above. He is reported as an active, energetic, and reliable gentleman, and a most trustworthy agent. In case you employ Mr. McFarland as agent, you can supply him with funds to make immediate payments, or cause all his bills to be paid on presentation. The rates of purchase must conform to those established.

I am, major, &c.,

J. D. BRADFORD,
Major, &c.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, March 22, 1863.

Major-General BUCKNER,
Commanding, &c., Mobile, Ala.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to request that a lot of flour (490 barrels), seized in Mobile, be released, and transportation allowed to its destination, Capt. G. A. Woodward, Vicksburg. This flour was purchased for use in the commissary department, and is much needed here. You will remember that all produce not grown or raised in this department is allowed to pass freely to Mobile.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 22, 1863.

Major-General STEVENSON:

Notify Colonel ——— when it is safe to send boats up river from Natchez or Red River.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

JACKSON, *March* 22, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN,
Grand Gulf, Miss.:

Do not take more than ten days' supplies from steamer Hine. I want the Hine to go up to bridge, if possible.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

OFFICE OF CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPT. MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, Miss., March 23, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson, Miss.:*

MAJOR: Your letter of instructions of the 19th instant inclosing a communication from W. J. Britton, esq., received. Relative to that portion of it instructing concert of action between Major [L.] Mims and myself, in order to secure a uniformity in the purchase price of articles on the part of our respective agents, I would reply that such arrangement has already been made, and by reference to the inclosed papers* you will perceive that, as early as February 13, I instructed Mr. John McFarland to take possession of the steam transport Edward J. Gay, and send her immediately to Snyder's Bluff, to place a grist-mill upon her, and use her for storing and grinding corn into meal, to be turned over to the commissary for the troops on Yazoo River. You will perceive that the boat was taken for some other purpose. The commissary of the Second Military District has been furnished with the list of prices governing the agents of Major Mims and myself.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

JACKSON, *March* 23, 1863.

Major-General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg:*

General Chalmers is paying 30 cents per pound for bacon at Panola, while Major [T. B.] Reed's agent is offering 50 cents. This must be stopped. Major Reed's agent must not pay more than General Chalmers.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

—

JACKSON, *March* 23, 1863.

General CHALMERS, *Panola, Miss.:*

General Stevenson has been directed to notify Major Reed not to pay more for bacon than your agents.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 24, 1863.

Maj. Gen. C. L. STEVENSON:

Additional boats have been ordered to Snyder's Mill, and it is thought they must be there by this time. Additional urgent orders have been

* Not found.

given to send all the boats that can be controlled. It is impossible to do more than has been done.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 24, 1863.

General BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

Notify at Rodney and Natchez if either of the Federal gunboats passes down, as my object is that boats may run from Red River into Big Black with subsistence.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 24, 1863.

G. W. KOONTZ, *Natchez:*

Send courier up Red River to notify the boats Charm, Texas, and J. H. Tucker that I wish them to go up Big Black. They should stop at Rodney, and obtain all information in regard to movements of Federal gunboats.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 24, 1863.

General BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

I have ordered the boats Charm, Texas, and J. H. Tucker, loaded with subsistence, up Big Black River.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 25, 1863.

Major-General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg, Miss.:*

The Charm is at Natchez, loaded with meat. Can she run for Big Black with safety? Answer immediately, and, if so, telegraph Lieutenant-Colonel [W. S.] Lovell at Natchez.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 25, 1863.

Brigadier-General BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

The Charm is at Natchez, loaded with meat. Will it be safe to let her run up to Big Black? If so, telegraph Lieut. Col. W. S. Lovell at Natchez. Answer immediately.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

JACKSON, *March* 25, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

Use your judgment in collecting the corn whenever you deem it safe and can get a boat.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 27, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief of Subsistence:*

I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say, in reply to your communication of the 25th instant, that you are authorized to exchange salt for bacon at the rates you propose.

I am, major, &c.,

H. C. TUPPER,
Aide-de-Camp.

—

OFFICE POST COMMISSARY,
Port Hudson, La., March 29, 1863.

Maj. T. F. WILLSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

MAJOR: The letters of Maj. Theodore Johnston and Lieut. George Cammack, of the 21st instant, which have been referred to me for explanation, are remarkable official papers. They are composed almost entirely of statements made by persons unknown to me, and, for aught I know, quite irresponsible. Certainly their accounts are in the main without foundation, and evidently engendered by ill-feeling or a wanton spirit of fault-finding. It is harassing to have labors usually extending far into the night protracted still farther by the necessity of answering charges so vague, groundless, and captious. At the time to which Mr. Conrad refers, I had no corn here at all, and was drawing upon the quartermaster's department for my daily supply. Of the five boats said by Lieutenant Cammack to have arrived during his stay, three—the Trent, Red Chief, and Starlight—were consigned to me. The others came to the quartermaster, as he might have learned had he inquired at official sources as eagerly as he seems to have done of idlers and casual passers-by. The large quantity of corn which he saw upon the levee was a small part of the cargoes discharged at the time of the bombardment, which was being shucked and hauled away as fast as the meager transportation and the difficulty of access to the landing permitted. The same was the case with the salt. The best vindication of this department, and the proof of the justness of the reasons assigned, lie in the celerity with which the whole landing has been cleared since the requisite transportation has been obtained.

The statement regarding soldiers throwing corn at each other and stealing would be puerile were it not for the exaggeration, which is clearly malicious. The young gentleman who makes it must have seen but little service, and knew still less of working fatigue details, or he would not have hazarded his reputation upon so frail a venture. As to the unloading the Starlight and steamboats generally, the small landing was crowded, as may be seen from the statement of the lieutenant that there were five boats here at the time, and it is quite reasonable that the labor should be directed to one at a time, to give space and to save

the wastage which would result from putting off corn in situations inaccessible to wagons. The statements of the anonymous "captain of the Trent" are in the sense in which they are meant—false; as is also that of Captain Woods in regard to the bulk pork, and of "Mr. Macauley" about the corn. No such things occurred at all in this department. I have never had pork lying a week in the rain or one moment longer than was absolutely necessary to have it hauled. I believe there was only one lot rained upon—that only for one day. It was resalted and saved. I have never lost a pound of corn by submersion.

In conclusion, the letter of Lieutenant Cammack is reckless, unfounded, and dictated by an evil spirit unbecoming an official document. I am surprised Major Johnston should have lent so eager an ear to such vague and thoughtless accusations against an officer whom he has complimented for the very qualities the want of which is now charged. Surely that is not to "render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's," and can only be accounted for by an excessive aversion to unnecessarily expending "toil, time, and money," evinced in his letter as well as in the scanty supplies sent to this post, coupled with an equally strong desire to escape the consequent responsibility.

I am, major, very respectfully, &c.,

JOSEPH P. CARR,
Major and Acting Commissary of Subsistence.

—

JACKSON, *March* 29, 1863.

Brigadier-General CHALMERS,
Panola, Miss.:

If you consider it practicable that supplies can be drawn from country along Memphis Railroad, press it to completion as far as Sardis. You are authorized to impress negroes. If it is probable enemy will break up railroad, do not press it forward.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *March* 30, 1863.

Maj. L. MIMS, *Jackson:*

I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to inquire if arrangements have been made to supply animals for the horse-cars between Oxford and Holly Springs,

I am, major, very respectfully, &c.,

H. C. TUPPER,
Aide-de-Camp.

—

JACKSON, *March* 30, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON,
Chief of Subsistence:

MAJOR: I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to direct you to make arrangements to have the cattle driven down from the Mississippi Central Railroad without waiting for transportation.

Very respectfully,

H. C. TUPPER,
Aide-de-Camp.

JACKSON, *March* 30, 1863.

Brigadier-General CHALMERS, *Panola, Miss.:*

When parties refuse Confederate money for supplies wanted by the Government, impress them.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 1, 1863.

Maj. JOHN MCFARLAND, *Yazoo City:*

SIR: In reply to your letter, lieutenant-general commanding directs me to say that he relies upon you to supply the troops with beef. He will not restrict you to 10 cents per pound, but hopes you will obtain it on the best possible terms. Major [Theo.] Johnston will keep you supplied with funds, so you may purchase on the most advantageous terms. It would be more difficult to get a proper amount of molasses to you than to procure beef.

Say to Mr. Weldon that his account will be paid at Fort Pemberton as soon as the amount is ascertained by a proper officer. General Loring must in all cases examine and approve the account, and he must keep distinct the expenses properly incurred by each branch of the service. The construction of rafts and the necessary expenses incident thereto belongs to the engineer bureau; the transportation, &c., to quartermaster, and the subsistence to the commissary. Each of the three items belonging to these different classifications must be kept distinct and stated separately.

I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 3, 1863.

Maj. L. MIMS,
Chief Quartermaster, Jackson, Miss.:

MAJOR: I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say that the means of transportation on the Mississippi Central Railroad is by no means sufficient, and the transportation of supplies is thereby greatly delayed. Your attention is directed to this fact, to remedy which you will request the authorities of the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad to return the cars belonging on the Mississippi Central Railroad. If they are unwilling so to do, you will return the cars (a sufficient number), notwithstanding the dissent of such authorities.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

JACKSON, *April* 5, 1863.

Maj. Gen. C. L. STEVENSON:

The Hine must not go down until mouth of Red River is open. At last report enemy's fleet was there.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

JACKSON, *April* 6, 1863.

Capt. E. POWELL, *Natchez:*

Send a courier at once to Red River to notify all loaded boats to be in readiness to come to Big Black the moment they are ordered.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 6, 1863.

Maj. L. MIMS,
Jackson, Miss.:

In reply to your communication of this day's date, referring to the necessity of the transfer of corn from the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to the Southern Railroad, I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say that he deems it advisable that the corn referred to be stored at Meridian, the necessity for its shipment to Vicksburg not being very pressing, and regarding it more important that the cars be retained on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad for the purpose of bringing supplies from the country above Meridian to that point than that at the present time the cars be run through to Vicksburg and the transportation on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad temporarily delayed. This corn can, therefore, for the present be stored at Meridian, and removed when transportation can be more readily obtained on the Southern Railroad.

Respectfully, &c.,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

JACKSON, *April* 6, 1863.

Maj. Gen. FRANK. GARDNER,
Port Hudson:

GENERAL: In reply to your communication of 3d instant, inclosing report from Major [J. P.] Carr, acting commissary of subsistence, I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say: As complaints in the delay of removing corn were not only preferred by Major [Theo.] Johnston, but also by Lieutenant-Colonel [W. A.] Broadwell, agent for the Commissary-General for supplying the armies of the Confederate States, it would appear that there was inexcusable delay in unloading the boats and removing the supplies. If there were not sufficient hands, soldiers should have been detailed for the purpose.

I am, respectfully, &c.,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

JACKSON, *April* 7, 1863.

Lieut. Col. W. S. LOVELL,
Natchez:

You don't mention amount of corn on river; think it as safe to run up Red River; unless gets full load, can take it coming back. Order Hine accordingly.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 7, 1863.

[VICTOR F. WILSON,]
President Southern Railroad:

SIR: The lieutenant-general commanding the department instructs me to say that the shipment of Government supplies and stores to Vicksburg is much too slow for the requirements of the service; that he desires that you will give your attention to this, and employ more cars in this transportation, and, further, that he thinks one day in the week is all that should be allowed for shipment of private freights.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. TAYLOR,
Aide-de-Camp.

—

JACKSON, *April 7*, 1863.

General JOHN S. BOWEN,
Grand Gulf, via Port Gibson:

Send a boat to Saint Joseph for 1,500 sacks of corn there.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 7, 1863.

Judge Z. L. NABERS, *Carrollton, Ala.:*

SIR: General Pemberton has directed General Ruggles to allow you to purchase the amount of corn mentioned in your letter in Noxubee and Lowndes Counties, and ship it for the use of the destitute families of volunteers now absent in the service, on the conditions and in the manner prescribed in your letter.

Yours, very respectfully,

J. THOMPSON,
Inspector-General.

—

APRIL 8, 1863.

* * * * * * *

When I arrived at Port Hudson, the steamer Red Chief was lying at the landing loaded with corn in shuck. A detail was ordered to unload her. * * * One portion of the detail procured coal hods (holding each about a bushel of corn), and carried the corn to the edge of the bank, where they deposited it. The other portion of the detail stood on board the boat, and threw the corn on shore ear by ear. Had proper care been taken in discharging the boat, and the corn been deposited 10 or 12 yards farther from the edge of the bank, no corn would have been lost; whereas it was deposited upon the very edge of the bank, and when the pile got to a certain height, almost every load from the hods when deposited upon the top would roll down into the river. In this manner, could we ascertain with any certainty the amount of corn which has been sunk at the landing at Port Hudson, we would find that we have suffered an almost incredible loss in that item alone, and all through neglect. * * * On the bluff there was sugar, salt, and molasses, which had been lying there for more than a month, the molasses being on end, with the sugar and salt piled upon it, the cooperage being very

bad, and the whole lot surrounded with a pool of sugar and molasses which had leaked out. * * * Major [J. P.] Carr says it is impossible for him to do more than he does at present, and that he has had to build his store-rooms and warehouses himself.

WALT. S. WINGATE.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 8, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON,
Chief Commissary of Subsistence:

The lieutenant-general commanding desires to know whether satisfactory and sufficient arrangements have been made for the receipt and keeping of the beef-cattle coming from beyond the Mississippi River; and he directs that hereafter no contracts for butchering must be made which allows as compensation to the butcher the hides. These must be retained, and kept subject to the control of the quartermaster's department.

I am, respectfully,

J. THOMPSON,
Inspector-General.

—

JACKSON, *April* 8, 1863.

General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg:*

Steamer Dot, with 200,000 pounds bacon, reached Big Black this evening. Have arrangements made at once for its transportation.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 9, 1863.

General STEVENSON, *Vicksburg:*

Have ordered 1,500 men from above as rapidly as possible to Rolling Fork. Send small boats to mouth of Sunflower to take them from large boats.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

OFFICE CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPT. MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, April 10, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson, Miss.:

MAJOR: On the 29th ultimo I addressed you a communication in which I asked that all the purchasing officers in the Second Military District, as in all other districts, be instructed not to go outside of their districts without authority from me. Will you please inform me if such instructions have been issued? Information from various sources has been furnished me to the effect that agents from the several military districts are being sent out in every direction, producing conflict and confusion in the purchase of supplies. I quote from a letter received this day from Red River:

There have been a good many outside commissaries or agents from Port Hudson and Vicksburg, who, instead of facilitating the shipment of articles necessary for the army,

simply create the impression that there must be a great demand, and, consequently, cause the planter to hold back for higher prices. Such action should cease.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major, &c.

—

JACKSON, *April* 13, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Tullahoma:*

Cars cannot run above Okolona. I am now establishing depots of corn at Enterprise and Meridian; shall also at Macon and Columbus. Meat can only be obtained in moderate quantities for want of wagon transportation. Will do all I can. Have no knowledge of my purchasing agents being in Alabama. Have ordered recall.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 13, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief of Subsistence, Jackson:*

MAJOR: In reply to your communication of this day's date, I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say that no more shipments are desired to be made to Vicksburg at present.

I am, respectfully,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

OFFICE CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPT. MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, April 14, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson, Miss.:

MAJOR: Inclosed I remit all the information that I have in relation to the condition of commissary stores at Port Hudson, except what has been said by persons whose names I did not take; but almost all with whom I have conversed united in saying that there was great waste of stores at that post. Whether these statements were true I have not had an opportunity of my own knowledge to ascertain, but I know the gentlemen who have made the statements to be of undoubted integrity. I am pleased to know that an investigation is to be made, and, if there has been neglect of duty, the fact will be known.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

JACKSON, *April* 14, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief of Subsistence, Jackson:*

MAJOR: In reply to your communication of this day, I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say that the enemy's gunboats are reported at the mouth of Red River. Nothing can go down.

I am, respectfully, &c.,

R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, Miss., April 14, 1863.

Maj. L. MIMS, *Chief Quartermaster, Jackson, Miss.:*

MAJOR: In connection with the accompanying communication from General Stevenson, referred to you, I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say he thinks it better to haul the machinery, iron, &c., to Vaughn's Station from Yazoo City, and that to take off the wagons from hauling corn to Vicksburg would be to prevent the accumulation of corn, &c., on the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which is now so much desired.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

OFFICE CHIEF OF SUBSISTENCE, DEPT. MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, April 16, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson:*

MAJOR: In reply to your communication of the 13th instant, asking for information in relation to the amount of supplies that can be collected at once on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, say at Meridian, Enterprise, Macon, and Columbus, I have the honor to state I am accumulating supplies rapidly along the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad; but the amount I can collect it is difficult for me to determine with any accuracy. Inclosed is a consolidated statement of the stores now at different points along the road.* As they accumulate I will inform you.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
THEO. JOHNSTON.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISS. AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 16, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief Commissary:*

MAJOR: The lieutenant-general commanding directs me to say that corn and corn-meal are not rapidly enough accumulated by your department; that 8,500 bushels of corn is but a small amount to have on the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. C. TAYLOR,
Aide-de-Camp.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISS. AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 17, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief of Subsistence:*

SIR: The lieutenant-general commanding is very solicitous for the collection of supplies at the different points named in the order of yesterday, viz: Meridian, Macon, Columbus, and West Point. He hopes the greatest energy will be used by all the employés of your department, and no effort be spared to effect the object. He relies upon you to command success.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. THOMPSON,
Inspector-General.

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* Omitted.

JACKSON, *April* 18, 1863.

General CHALMERS, *Panola, Miss.:*

I regard the navigation of the Mississippi River shut out from us now. No more supplies can be gotten from the Trans-Mississippi Department. Can you not supply 15,000 men from Panola?

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 18, 1863.

Maj. HOWELL HINDS, *Fayette, Miss.:*

We have a cargo of bacon on a boat in Choctaw Bayou, 4 miles west of Water Proof. It is of vital importance to save it. Can it be transported to the river, and crossed at Rodney, and from thence sent to the railroad? If so, you will undertake the direction of the enterprise. If you can get it across anywhere you will do a great service, for which Lieutenant-General Pemberton will be most grateful. Answer.

W. H. McCARDLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

JACKSON, *April* 18, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

Steamer Vigo is now in Choctaw Bayou, 4 miles west of Water Proof, with a cargo of bacon for Vicksburg. Send an energetic commissary and quartermaster to receipt for the bacon and provide transportation, by impressment if necessary. What means would you suggest for getting it across the river? It is too necessary for it to be lost. Answer as soon as possible.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 20, 1863.

Maj. THEO. JOHNSTON, *Chief of Subsistence:*

MAJOR: I am directed by the lieutenant-general commanding to say, in reply to your communication of to-day's date, relative to subsistence at Port Hudson, La., that he is satisfied with amount now on hand, but hereafter the supply must not be decreased, as it will have to be kept up by land. Every effort must be made to supply as fast as consumed.

I am, major, your obedient servant,

J. H. MORRISON,
Aide-de-Camp.

—

JACKSON, *April* 22, 1863.

Col. W. S. LOVELL, *Natchez:*

Am arranging to haul the one thousand sacks corn to Port Hudson. You must get all you can for that place. Is it quartermaster or commissary?

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

JACKSON, *April* 22, 1863.

Col. L. B. NORTHROP,
Commissary-General, Richmond:

Steamboats in Mississippi will greatly impede, if not prevent, supply of beef from Texas. Planters here want from 25 to 35 cents. By what rule shall I proceed to obtain it?

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *April* 22, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

MAJOR: The management of the commissariat at Port Hudson is unsatisfactory. The facts are as follows:

Maj. J. P. Carr reports on hand March 15—

Rations of bulk pork		393,750
Rations of bacon		627,560
		1,021,310
Hogs		1,674

On hand as per report of March 31:

Rations of bulk pork	371,132	
Rations of bacon	622,132	
		993,264

(Hogs slaughtered and included in report of bulk pork.)

On hand as per report of April 15:

Rations of bulk pork	3,760	
Rations of bacon	460,000	
		463,760
Difference in fifteen days (rations)		529,504
Bacon and pork, if issued exclusively for fifteen days (rations)		197,640
Remaining unaccounted for (rations)		331,864

Major Carr, as will be seen, reports on March 15:

Rations		1,021,310
Hogs on hand	1,674	
Between March 15 and 31, the 1,674 hogs were slaughtered, which, at 150 pounds each (a small average), and three-quarter pound to the ration, would make		334,800
		1,356,110

On April 17, I addressed Major Carr as follows:

Your telegraphic report to-day gives but 1,880 pounds of pork. Is that all you have? There is a decrease, according to your report, of 529,504 rations of bacon and bulk pork within the last fifteen days. Is not this an error?

The following is Major Carr's reply:

The last report is correct; that of the first was bungled by clerk, and is a large overestimate. In next report there will be a heavy deduction for loss in estimated weight of hogs.

I have, in a communication to Major [J. J.] Wheadon, chief commissary of General Gardner, insisted that a depot commissary be assigned to duty at Port Hudson. He has assigned Major Carr, and Capt. J. P. Jones as post commissary.

If, in the opinion of the lieutenant-general commanding, any action is necessary, I would be pleased to have an investigation or something done which will prevent a repetition or continuation of such a condition of things as has for some time existed at that post. I cannot determine where the fault lies, but the facts are as stated.

Under date of April 5, Major Carr says:

> The issues have been of pork and bacon for the greater part of the time at three-fourths of a pound to the ration, by order of General Gardner.

I respectfully request that General Gardner be desired to revoke his order. One-half pound per day is all that has been issued for many months in this department. In Virginia one-fourth of a pound only is issued. I request also that General Gardner be instructed to have issued to the troops of his command beef five days in seven.

I am, major, respectfully, &c.,

THEO. JOHNSTON,
Major and Chief of Subsistence.

—

JACKSON, *April* 24, 1863.

Maj. Gen. FRANK. GARDNER,
Port Hudson, La.:

You will issue salt meat, not to exceed three times a week, including salt beef and lard, rice in lieu of the corn, at the rates directed by department. Molasses and sugar may be issued in lieu of meat until fresh beef can be obtained. You must send to Louisiana parishes a party to assist Captain [J. B.] Chrisman in collecting beef for Port Hudson. Enemy is making raids as low as Southern Railroad; danger of supplies being cut off.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 25, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

What amount of bacon in cargo? I propose sending it to Port Hudson, via Woodville. Answer.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 26, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN:

The meat in Cole's Creek must be sent direct to Port Hudson, via Washington, to Woodville, where General Gardner's agents will take it. What is now on the way to Port Hudson may await their further orders.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, April 30, 1863.

PRESIDENT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, *Jackson:*

SIR: It is of the utmost importance that the break in your road should be repaired with the greatest expedition, and I hope that you will de-

vote your energy and attention to the matter, and employ such a force on the work that the necessary repairs may be completed in the shortest possible time, as a great portion of the supplies for this command must now come over your road.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 30, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

The meat at Port Gibson must by no means be allowed to fall into hands of the enemy. Have the re-enforcements arrived?

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Appendix B.]

Correspondence relative to Ordnance.

HOLLY SPRINGS, MISS., *November* 6, 1862.

Col. J. GORGAS,
Chief of Ordnance, Richmond, Va.:

I need 600 rounds 3-inch Parrott projectiles and 300 rounds 20-pounder Parrott as soon as possible; also small-arms and ammunition; also fixed ammunition, assorted, for field guns. Have none on hand, except what is in the hands of regiments and battalions, only partially supplied.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *November* 12, 1862.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Richmond, Va.:*

Neither of the Parrott guns, siege guns, 24-pounder howitzers, or 12-pounder bronze guns have been received yet. Have any been sent? I am terribly in want of arms.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *November* 22, 1862.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Richmond, Va.:*

The arms sent by messenger on the 29th have never been heard of here. Flats will be sent from Chattanooga as soon as they arrive for 10-inch guns.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

VICKSBURG, MISS., *January* 3, 1863.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Chief of Ordnance, Richmond, Va.:*

Please order General [G. J.] Rains, at Augusta, to send me at once 30,000 pounds of powder. Must have it immediately.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

JACKSON, MISS., *January* 28, 1863.

Col. [J.] GORGAS, *Richmond, Va.:*

Please order the 4,000 arms required for by Major [George Upshur] Mayo sent here without delay. They are indispensable at this juncture.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *February* 5, 1863.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Richmond, Va.:*

I fear you do not appreciate the importance of meeting ordnance requisitions for this department. A constant supply of field and small-arm ammunition (especially buck and ball) must come. I want 1,000,000 percussion-caps immediately.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *April* 16, 1863.

Col. [J.] GORGAS, *Richmond, Va.:*

I have a battalion of sharpshooters without arms. Can you let me have three hundred Enfield rifles to arm them? I need a number of small-arms for unarmed men in my department.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *April* 18, 1863.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Chief of Ordnance, Richmond, Va.:*

If ammunition for the three 9-inch guns is not sent with them, they will be useless to me. Have heard nothing from you of bolts for the Brooks gun now here. Without bolts it had as well been left in Richmond. I have no coal, and am unable to obtain any.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *April* 19, 1863.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Chief of Ordnance, Richmond, Va.:*

The dimensions for eyes for shells is not uniform. Please have the shells fixed with fuses, or have the eyes uniform. Order extra sabots, as many are broken by railroad in transportation. Different arsenals make the eyes larger or smaller than prescribed; should be corrected. Friction-primers frequently fail.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, &c.

—

JACKSON, MISS., *April* 23, 1863.

Col. J. GORGAS, *Chief of Ordnance, Richmond, Va.:*

Have but one 10-inch mortar, but can throw incendiary shells from 10-inch and 8-inch columbiads. Send me as many as you can, and powder, or, better, cartridges with them.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

JACKSON, MISS., *April* 29, 1863.

Col. J. GORGAS,
Chief of Ordnance, Richmond, Va.:

Daily complaints are made of friction-primers sent to this department. Usually three out of five fail. It is worse than useless to send tin ones here. Send at least 10,000 copper ones by special messenger with all haste.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

[Appendix C.]

List of officers and enlisted men mentioned for gallant conduct in battles of Baker's Creek, Big Black, and during siege of Vicksburg; also tabular statement of killed, wounded, and missing of Stevenson's and Bowen's divisions during same time.

List of officers, non-commissioned officers, and enlisted men specially mentioned for gallant conduct in the battle of Baker's Creek and during the siege of Vicksburg:

BAKER'S CREEK.

Mentioned by Maj. Gen. C. L. Stevenson:

Brig. Gen. S. D. Lee, gallant conduct during entire engagement, having three horses shot under him. Major [J. W.] Anderson, chief of artillery, gallantly falling in full discharge of his duties. Captain [S. J.] Ridley, Company A, First Mississippi Artillery, fell, fighting his guns single-handed and alone, winning even from his enemies the highest tribute of admiration. Captains [Max Van Den] Corput and [J. W.] Johnston, fought their batteries to last extremity, aided by non-commissioned officers and men. Captain [J. F.] Waddell, First Mississippi [Alabama] Artillery, fought guns to last extremity, and, when battery was retaken, aided by Lieut. G. D. Wise, ordnance officer of Cumming's brigade, fought guns until Missourians had to fall back. Maj. J. J. Reeve, assistant adjutant-general, gallant conduct and coolness in leading men into action. Major [Howell] Webb, inspector-general, gallant conduct. Capt. J. W. Mathews, acting assistant adjutant-general, gallant conduct. Surg. H. M. Compton, gallant conduct. First Lieutenant [Henry T.] Botts, gallant conduct. Col. G. A. Heyward, volunteer aide-de-camp, gallant conduct. Mr. D. E. Norris, telegraph operator, for rendering valuable services. Private A. T. Sullivan, for rendering valuable services.

Mentioned by Colonel [T. P.] Dockery, commanding Missouri brigade:

Sergt. R. H. G. Gaines, Company K, Twenty-third Alabama, gallant conduct; unassisted and alone, he used with good effect a 12-pounder howitzer on the flanking column of enemy, firing from 12 to 15 rounds. Lieutenant-Colonel [W. H.] Dismukes fell, mortally wounded, gallantly charging the enemy's batteries. Private Pudic, Nineteenth Arkansas, gallant conduct during entire engagement, keeping in front of his regiment during whole day, using his gun with good effect.

Mentioned by Colonel [F. M.] Cockrell, commanding Missouri brigade:

Captain Waddell, First Mississippi [Alabama] Artillery, gallant conduct. Captains Carrington and Spangler and Lieutenant [T. J.] Dobyns, First Missouri Infantry, fell, gallantly fighting the enemy. Captain [W. P.] McIlvain, Third Missouri Infantry, fell, gallantly fight-

ing. Lieutenant-Colonel [F. L.] Hubbell, Third Missouri, fell, mortally wounded, in hottest of the fight. Captain [H. G.] McKinney, mortally wounded, in hottest of fight. Lieutenant [R. S.] Rankin, First Missouri, mortally wounded, gallantly fighting. Colonel [A. C.] Riley and Lieutenant-Colonel [H. A.] Garland, First Missouri, gallant conduct. Lieutenant-Colonel [P. S.] Senteny and Major [T. M.] Carter, Second Missouri, gallant conduct. Colonel [W. R.] Gause and Major [J. R.] McDowell, Third Missouri, gallant conduct. Colonel [James] McCown, Lieutenant-Colonel [R. S.] Bevier, and Major [O. A.] Waddell, Fifth Missouri, gallant conduct. Major [Stephen] Cooper, Sixth Missouri, gallant conduct. Capts. U. M. Young, J. M. Flanagan, acting assistant adjutants-general, and R. L. Maupin, acting aide-de-camp, gallant conduct.

DURING SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

Mentioned by Maj. Gen. C. L. Stevenson:

Brig. Gen. S. D. Lee, gallant conduct in repulsing the only decided assault made on General Stevenson's line during siege. Lieut. Col. E. W. Pettus, gallant conduct in leading charge against enemy in ditch and capturing two stand of colors placed by the enemy on parapet. Colonel [C. S.] Guyton, Fifty-seventh Georgia, gallant conduct in leading sally. Colonel [W. E.] Curtiss, Forty-first Georgia, gallant conduct in picket fight, capturing 107 Federals. Colonel [I. W.] Garrott, Twentieth Alabama, killed; true soldier and gifted patriot. Captain [F. O.] Claiborne, artillery corps, gallant conduct; killed. Lieut. G. D. Wise, ordnance officer Cumming's brigade, gallant conduct; specially mentioned for valuable services rendered in carrying dispatches to General [J. E.] Johnston. Maj. J. J. Reeve, assistant adjutant-general, gallant conduct and strict attention to duty. Major [G. L.] Gillespie, chief of subsistence, valuable services in subsisting garrison by close attention to duties. Capt. J. W. Johnston, inspector-general light artillery, for valuable services rendered. Captains Waddell and [John B.] Grayson, commanding light batteries, valuable services. Capt. P. Robinson, engineer officer, valuable services. Major [J. E.] McElrath, quartermaster, valuable services.

Mentioned by Colonel Cockrell, commanding Missouri brigade:

Ordnance Sergt. William F. Luckett, mortally wounded while carrying ammunition through severe fire. Col. Eugene Erwin, killed while fighting most gallantly. Lieut. Col. P. S. Senteny, killed while fighting most gallantly. Lieutenants [J. T.] Crenshaw and [John] Rosebery, killed while fighting gallantly. Col. A. C. Riley and Lieutenant-Colonel Garland, First Missouri, gallant conduct. Lieutenant-Colonel Senteny and Major Carter, Second Missouri, gallant conduct. Major McDowell, Third Missouri, gallant conduct. Colonel McCown and Major Waddell, Fifth Missouri, gallant conduct. Major Cooper, Sixth Missouri, gallant conduct. Capt. R. L. Maupin, gallant conduct and valuable services. Capts. W. P. Pitman, assistant inspector-general, H. M. Pollard, assistant adjutant-general, and Lieut. T. B. Green, aide-de-camp, gallant conduct. Sergeant [W. A.] Fisher, Lowe's Missouri artillery, gallant conduct.

Mentioned by Col. Edward Higgins, commanding river batteries:

Capts. J. P. Lynch and [T. N.] Johnston, First Tennessee Heavy Artillery, for handsomely handling their guns during entire siege. Maj. F. W. Hoadley, First Tennessee Heavy Artillery, gallant conduct; killed. Colonel [A.] Jackson, jr., and Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert] Sterling, First Tennessee Heavy Artillery, gallant conduct. Maj. F. N.

Ogden, Eighth Louisiana Battalion Heavy Artillery, gallant conduct. Captains [W. C.] Capers, [R. C.] Bond, [Rufus J.] Bruce, Lieutenants [Richard] Agar, [Ed. D.] Woodlief, [C. A.] Conrad, First Louisiana Regular Artillery, gallant conduct. Lieutenant [W. T.] Mumford, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. W. M. Bridges, acting assistant inspector-general; Lieut. W. Yerger, aide-de-camp; Lieut. W. O. Flynn, engineer officer, valuable services. Sergt. Thomas P. Lynch, First Louisiana Artillery, valuable services as chief of river police, always discharging his duties with promptness and to the full satisfaction of his commanding officer.

Mentioned by Colonel [T. N.] Waul, commanding Waul's Texas Legion:

Captain [Louis] Papendieck, assistant adjutant-general, and Lieutenant Simmons, aide-de-camp, fell, fighting gallantly for their country. Major [Allen] Cameron, gallant conduct; killed. Capt. H. Wickeland, gallant conduct. Captain [J. B.] Fleitas, First Louisiana Zouaves, gallant conduct.

Mentioned by Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith:

Lieutenant-Colonel [Edward] Ivy, chief of artillery; Major [J. G.] Devereux, assistant adjutant-general; Major [J. F.] Girault, assistant inspector-general; Major [T. C.] Fearn, quartermaster; Capt. M. McDonald, ordnance officer; Lieut. G. H. Frost, aide-de camp; Lieutenant [B. M.] Harrod, aide-de-camp; Surgeon [N. H. ?] Whitfield, and Capt. Hobart, volunteer aide-de-camp, gallant conduct and very valuable services.

Mentioned by Brigadier-General Hébert:

Col. Charles H. Herriek, mortally wounded; gallant conduct. Lieut. Charles A. Bruslé, aide-de-camp, killed; gallant conduct. Lieut. Blessing, engineer officer, killed; gallant conduct.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

Return of Casualties in the Confederate forces at Baker's Creek, Big Black, and Vicksburg, Miss., 1863.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
Stevenson's division:							
Baker's Creek	13	211	41	603	60	1,828	2,756
Vicksburg	8	114	17	283	2	24	448
Total	21	325	58	886	62	1,852	3,204
Bowen's division:							
Baker's Creek	16	115	64	366	7	300	868
Big Black	1	2	.....	9	105	907	1,024
Vicksburg	24	166	35	459	.....	74	758
Total	41	283	99	834	112	1,281	2,650
Grand total*	62	608	157	1,720	174	3,133	5,854

* Note on original states that no reports had been received from Forney's division, Smith's division, the river batteries, or Waul's Legion.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,
Richmond, Va., October 1, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON, *Richmond, Va.:*

GENERAL: At the suggestion of the President, I would call your attention to several points in your recent report of operations in Mississippi which it would be gratifying to me to have elucidated or explained.

The first dispatch of General J. E. Johnston, from Jackson, instructed you to advance and attack in the rear the corps of the enemy at Clinton, and promised co-operation in such attack on his part. Clinton was on the railroad between General Johnston and Jackson, and yourself at Edwards Depot. I have understood this direction to instruct you to march toward Clinton at once, and by the direct or nearest route, considering the rear to be the side most remote from him (General J.) and nearest you, and not to have contemplated that you should make a detour to come around on the rear of the line by which the enemy had advanced toward Clinton. Was a different view entertained by you of the intent of this order? As the object of the order was to have the corps at Clinton promptly assailed while separate and beyond support, I have supposed it contemplated immediate movement on your part to execute it, and that the distance was not so great but that you might, could you have marched at once, have reached and struck the corps in from twelve to twenty-four hours. Will you state the distance and what obstacles prevented movement on your part for some twenty-six hours? I have deemed it unfortunate that on receiving this first dispatch from General Johnston, you—knowing that he must necessarily be very imperfectly acquainted with your position and resources, as well as with the movements and forces of the enemy—did not take the responsibility of acting on your better knowledge and maintain your preconceived plan, or, if unwilling to do that, that you did not at once carry out strictly the order received. It appears to me the more to be regretted that, having written to General Johnston that you would move at once, though against your judgment, in execution of his instructions, you should afterward have so far deviated from them as to resolve to direct your movements toward Raymond instead of toward Clinton. When you came to this resolve, you at once informed General Johnston, but it happened, unfortunately, that after the receipt of your first [communication], General Johnston had been compelled to act by the advance of the enemy on Jackson, and to proceed in evacuating, on the supposition that you were executing his first orders, and that you were more easily to be approached by his moving out to the north rather than to the south of the Vicksburg Railroad. Had he known of your purpose to move toward Raymond, the reasonable inference is he would have directed his movements southward, or more in the direction of your proposed advance. I think it not unlikely misapprehension on this subject prevented his so moving as to have enabled him to have taken part in the battle so soon to be fought by you.

Will you explain more fully the motives for your deviation from the direct execution of the instructions, and the consequences which, in your judgment, would have resulted from pursuing the instructions literally? Were you acquainted with the movements of the several corps of the enemy when, as it appears, they were separated into two or more distinct columns (separated by 12 or 15 miles), and when you were nearer to one and perhaps to two than they were to each other? Could you not have struck at one separately; and, if so, what reasons induced

you to wait till nearly all their several forces concentrated and attacked you on your march, in obedience to General Johnston's renewed order?

While I have not approved General Johnston's instructions, as under the circumstances I think it would have been better to have left you to the guidance of your superior knowledge of the position and your own judgment, I confess to have been surprised that, seeing he had taken the responsibility of positive directions with a view to a prompt attack on a separate detachment of the enemy, you had not seized the occasion while they were severed to attempt the blow. I consider the essential part of his orders to have been immediate advance and attack on a separate column, and that if you could not execute that, you would have been well justified in attempting no other compliance, and falling back on your previous plan. As it was, neither plan was pursued, and invaluable time and the advantage of position were lost in doubtful movements. So, at least, the case has struck my mind.

On another distinct point I should be pleased to have information: How happened it that General [J.] Gregg with his small force was so far separated from you, and compelled alone at Raymond to encounter the greatly superior forces of the enemy? Had he been placed at such distance as a covering force to Jackson (the capital), or with what view?

To recur again to the battle of Baker's Creek: I should be pleased to know if General Loring had been ordered to attack before General Cumming's brigade gave way, and whether in your opinion, had Stevenson's division been promptly sustained, the troops with him would have fought with so little tenacity and resolution as a portion of them exhibited. Have you had any explanation of the extraordinary failure of General Loring to comply with your reiterated orders to attack, and do you feel assured your orders were received by him? His conduct, unless explained by some misapprehension, is incomprehensible to me.

You will, I trust, general, excuse the frankness with which I have presented the foregoing subjects of inquiry. They will, doubtless, only enable you more fully to explain the movements made by you and the reasons inducing them, to the satisfaction as well of others interested as of—

Yours, with esteem,

J. A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War.

—

RICHMOND, *November* 10, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War, Richmond:

SIR: To your communication of the 1st ultimo I have the honor to make the following reply, taking the points presented in order as you have placed them:

The first order from General Johnston was, I conceived, to move on the rear of the corps of the enemy known by him to be at Clinton, and I believed his intent to be by the most direct route; but as he did not in his dispatch indicate by what route, it was, consequently, left entirely with my own judgment and discretion (had I seen fit to move to Clinton at all) to decide the most advantageous route under the circumstances for the advance. I deem that to have made the movement to Clinton by any route (but more especially by the "most direct or nearest route") would have been hazardous in the extreme; yes, suicidal, for in that case would my flank and rear have been entirely unprotected, and a large portion of the enemy's force (of whose position General Johnston seemed to

be entirely ignorant) could have interposed itself between my army and its base of operations (Vicksburg), and have taken that stronghold almost without a struggle, so small was its garrison after I had drawn all my available force for the field. The object, no doubt, of the order was that the detachment of the enemy at Clinton should be promptly assailed "while separate and beyond support." But was it beyond supporting distance of the other columns? Of the positions of the enemy I was not definitely informed; but only knew that the whole of Grant's army (three corps) had taken the general direction (northeast) toward the railroad. At what point on this they would strike, or the positions of the two corps, not mentioned nor seemingly regarded by General Johnston, I was not informed, except inasmuch as I had learned from prisoners that Smith's division was at Dillon's and the rest of the corps to which he was attached were near him, could I make the movement on the one corps at Clinton irrespective and regardless of the major force of the enemy? jeopardizing my lines of communication and retreat, and giving up Vicksburg an easy capture to the enemy, the retention of which in our possession I knew to be the great aim and object of the Government in the campaign; and for this end all my dispositions of troops had been made and plans arranged—plans now subverted entirely by the order under consideration; for it had not been my intention to make any forward movement from Edwards Depot, but to have there awaited an attack from the enemy (which must have taken place in forty-eight hours, or he would have been compelled to have sought supplies at his base on the Mississippi River), in a chosen position, with my lines secured, and, if overwhelmed by numbers, with a way of retreat open across the Big Black, which line of defense I would have then held as an obstruction to the enemy's investing Vicksburg. And this disarrangement of my plan caused "the delay for some twenty-six hours." Not having contemplated an advance, all the arrangements had to be made for the movement, all my available troops had to be collected, and great difficulty was caused by the heavy rain which fell in the twenty-four hours succeeding the receipt of the order. My movement, considering the difficulties to be encountered and the preparations necessary to be made, was, I think, promptly executed and without "delay," in the usual acceptation of the meaning of that term.

General Johnston not having consulted with me, or in any way asked for my plan or opinion, I had perhaps no right to suppose that he was "imperfectly acquainted with my position and resources, as well as with the movements and forces of the enemy;" but, on the contrary, when he ordered my advance, I would have been justified in supposing that he must have been better informed as to the disposition of the forces of the enemy than myself. But, notwithstanding this, had I been upheld by the opinions of my general officers, I would not have advanced beyond Edwards Depot, as I deemed it very hazardous to make any forward movement, but would there have awaited, on chosen ground, the attack of the enemy.

The interval which elapsed between my communications (informing General Johnston in the first that I would obey his instructions at once, though against my own judgment, and in the second that I would move in a direction to cut off the supplies of the enemy) was not long enough to change or interfere with any movement of his.

By no possibility could General Johnston have effectually co-operated with me in the movement toward Clinton, he at that time having retired before the greatly superior force of the enemy, in the direction of Canton; was some 20 miles distant from Clinton, and, moreover, the

enemy would certainly have forced battle from me before I should have reached the latter place.

"The consequence which, in my judgment, would have resulted from pursuing the instructions literally" would have been the certain fall of Vicksburg, almost without a blow being struck in its defense, so overwhelming a force could the enemy then have thrown, without opposition, on its small garrison. For further elucidation on this point, I beg leave to refer you to an examination of the positions on the map * accompanying my report.

In consequence of my great deficiency in cavalry, the force of that arm in my command being scarcely adequate for the necessary picketing, I was not "acquainted with the movements of the several corps of the enemy," but only knew, as before stated, that the general direction of the whole of Grant's army was to the northeast from its base on the Mississippi River.

General Johnston, when he sent me the first instructions for the movement on the detachment at Clinton, was not informed of the positions of the other detachments of the enemy, for he writes me on the next morning (the 14th) that another corps of the enemy, he learns, is at Raymond, to which he had not in any manner referred in his letter of the 13th.†

Having concluded that it would be suicidal to make the direct advance to Clinton, I would have attempted "no other compliance" with the order had the opinions of my general officers in any manner sustained me in so doing; but they being all eager for an advance, I made a movement, in the shortest possible time, to threaten the roads to Raymond and to Dillon, thus to cut off the supplies of the enemy, which a communication previously written (of the 14th) by General Johnston, but not received until after the battle of Baker's Creek, suggested.

General [J.] Gregg, with his brigade from Port Hudson, having arrived at a point near Jackson, and being without his wagon transportation, was ordered to take position at Raymond (that being an advantageous point for the collection of the troops either to move on the flank of the enemy advancing on Edwards Depot or to retire on Jackson), and on there being joined by the re-enforcements, which were expected and daily arriving at Jackson, including, as I hoped, a force of cavalry, to move on the flank and rear of the enemy should he attack me in position at Edwards Depot. To await and draw on this attack I had matured all my plans and arrangements. *Vide* following telegrams to Generals Gregg and Walker on this point, where it will be seen that though General Gregg sustained the advance of the enemy nobly and bravely, my orders, however, were for him to retire on Jackson if attacked by a greatly superior force:

VICKSBURG, *May* 11, 1863.

General GREGG:

From information from General Tilghman of the enemy being in force opposite the ferry at Baldwin's, it is very probable that the movement toward Jackson is in reality on Big Black Bridge, in which case you must be prepared to attack them in rear or on flank.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

VICKSBURG, *May* 11, 1863.

Brigadier-General WALKER, *Jackson:*

Move immediately with your command to Raymond. General Gregg has been ordered, if the enemy advance on him in too strong force, to fall back on Jackson. You will do likewise in conjunction with him. If the enemy advance on you in not too

* To be found in Atlas.

† Raymond is 8 miles from Clinton.

strong force, you will meet them. If, instead of advancing on Jackson, he should advance on Big Black Bridge, the command, under direction of the senior officer, will attack him in rear and flank.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

VICKSBURG, *May* 11, 1863.

Brigadier-General WALKER, *Jackson:*

Enemy is reported advancing in heavy force on Jackson. Hold your command in readiness, and move toward Raymond, either to support General Gregg at that place or to cover his retreat. Telegraph to hurry up re-enforcements.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

General Loring "had been ordered to attack before General Cumming's brigade gave way," and the order had been again and again repeated; and in my opinion "had Stevenson's division been promptly sustained," his troops would have deported themselves gallantly and creditably.

I have received no explanation of "the extraordinary failure of General Loring to comply with my reiterated orders to attack," and I do "feel assured that my orders were received by him."

Hoping, sir, that these explanations may prove satisfactory, I am, with respect, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

RICHMOND, VA., *December* 14, 1863.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,
Secretary of War:

SIR: Having been allowed the opportunity of reading General J. E. Johnston's report of the military operations in the Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana during the months of May, June, and July last, in justice to myself I request to be permitted to make the following additional report:

The first order from General Johnston, dated at Jackson, May 13, was received by me near Bovina on the morning of the 14th, I think between 9 and 10 o'clock. It was in these terms:

I have lately arrived, and learn that Major-General Sherman is between us with four divisions at Clinton. It is important to re-establish communication, that you may be re-enforced. If practicable, come up in his rear at once. To beat such a detachment would be of immense value. The troops here could co-operate. All the strength you can quickly assembly should be brought; time is all-important.

In this note General Johnston does not intimate a probable movement of the corps under General Sherman from Clinton upon Jackson, nor does he say how "the troops here [at Jackson] could co-operate." He only directs me for purposes named—"if practicable, come up in his [enemy's] rear at once." General Sherman with his corps of four divisions was represented by General Johnston to be between him and myself at Clinton. It was not clear to me by what route General Johnston wished me to advance. If the enemy should await my approach at Clinton and give me battle there, General Johnston would have been in his rear and might have co-operated; or, if he advanced upon Jackson and engaged the small force there, and I could by any possibility, in obedience to General Johnston's orders, have come up in his rear while so occupied, there would have been co-operation; but, in either event, to unite our troops in this way, it is plain that the enemy, whatever his

strength, must be first completely routed. I see no other mode by which a junction could have been effected, unless either General Johnston or myself should pass completely around the position or moving columns of the enemy. I have no reason to suppose he contemplated such a movement when he addressed to me his note of the 13th. In the absence of special instructions as to my route to reach the rear of the enemy at Clinton, I was certainly at liberty to select that which I should deem the most advantageous, time or the distance to be marched being only one element (though a very important one) which should influence my selection. I have no desire, however, to conceal the fact that my understanding of General Johnston's orders was to move as rapidly as possible to attack Sherman's corps at Clinton, or wherever I might find it, and I believed that his instructions were influenced by his supposing that these were the only troops I should encounter, as no reference is made to any other force of the enemy.

It will be remembered now that I received these instructions between 9 and 10 o'clock on the morning of the 14th, near Bovina, on the west of the Big Black River. I at first determined to obey them at once, although, in my judgment, fraught with peril and absolute disaster, and so informed General Johnston. Before leaving Bovina, I gave some necessary instructions to meet this unexpected movement, and as soon as possible proceeded to Edwards Depot, where I arrived at about 12 o'clock, and learned from prisoners just captured that a corps of the enemy was on my right flank, with one division of it near Dillon's.

It will be observed in General Johnston's communication of the 14th, given in my report (unfortunately not received until the evening of the 16th), that he informs me he was compelled to evacuate Jackson about noon on that day, thus showing that within less than three hours of my receipt of his order he was himself compelled to leave Jackson, the enemy having moved from Clinton against that place. And in the same communication he further informs me that a body of troops, which was reported to have reached Raymond on the preceding night, advanced at the same time from that direction. Therefore, had I moved immediately, which I could not have done with more than 16,000 effective men, I should have encountered their combined forces in my front had they chosen to give me battle, while McClernand's corps, upon my right, could either have interposed between me and Vicksburg or have moved at once upon my rear. Nor could I have had much assistance from the re-enforcements referred to by General Johnston, for in the same communication he informs me that—

Telegrams were dispatched when the enemy was near, directing General Gist to assemble the approaching troops at a point 40 or 50 miles from Jackson, and General Maxey to return to his wagons and provide for the security of his brigade; for instance, by joining General Gist.

He himself having moved, on the 14th, with the small force at Jackson, some 7 miles toward Canton, and thus placed himself not less than 15 miles (as I am informed) by the nearest practicable route from Clinton; and on the following day he marched 10½ miles nearer to Canton and farther from Clinton.

Let us suppose, therefore, for the moment, that, neglecting all provision for the safety of Vicksburg, and by withdrawing Vaughn's brigade of 1,500 men from the defense of the Big Black Bridge (my direct line of communication with Vicksburg), I had swelled my little army at Edwards Depot to 17,500 (it must be remembered Tilghman's brigade was west of Big Black, guarding the important approach by Baldwin's Ferry, which was threatened by the whole of McClernand's corps, and

he could not, therefore, have joined me earlier than the morning of the 15th), and that I had pushed hurriedly forward on the direct road to Clinton. I ask any candid mind what would probably, nay, what must certainly, have been the result? I can see none other than the entire destruction or capture of my army and the immediate fall of Vicksburg. Such were my firm convictions at the time, and I so expressed myself to my general officers in council, and such they are still.

I have explained, in my report, why, contrary to my own judgment and to the subversion of all my plans for the defense of Vicksburg, I determined to advance from my position at Edwards Depot, and thus abandon the line of the Big Black, which (although I had crossed when I learned that the main body of General Grant's army was approaching the Southern Railroad, to protect my communications with the east and more easily to avail myself of the assistance of my re-enforcements, which were daily arriving) I was yet in a position to recross readily by both the bridges, at the railroad and by Bridgeport, and thus defend my vital positions at Snyder's Mill and Chickasaw Bayou, if I should find that the enemy was advancing in too heavy force against Edwards Depot; and I accordingly informed General Johnston, on May 12, that the enemy was apparently moving his heavy force toward Edwards Depot, adding—

> That will be the battle-field, if I can carry forward sufficient force, leaving troops enough to secure the safety of this place (Vicksburg).

I was firmly convinced that the enemy's supplies must be very limited, as he moved with but few wagons, and his dependence upon those to be drawn from his distant base at Grand Gulf or Bayou Pierre very precarious. I had good reason, therefore, to believe that he would be forced either to advance immediately upon Edwards Depot to give me battle (which I should have accepted or avoided, according to circumstances) or to return at once to his base upon the Mississippi River.

On May 7, and previous to my movement across the Big Black, the President of the Confederate States telegraphed me as follows:

> I am anxiously expecting intelligence of your further active operations. Want of transportation of supplies must compel the enemy to seek a junction with their fleet after a few days' absence from it. To hold both Vicksburg and Port Hudson is necessary to a connection with Trans-Mississippi. You may expect whatever it is in my power to do.

I have now shown how important I considered it not to advance beyond my direct communication with Vicksburg and close proximity to the Big Black. Nor would I have done so—and I believe that every general officer of my command who attended the council held at Edwards Depot will sustain me in the assertion, so far as his opinion may go—but for the orders received from General Johnston on the morning of May 14. They know, one and all, the loud-voiced public sentiment which urged a forward movement. They also know (there may be an individual exception or two) how eager they themselves were (though they differed as to the preferable movement) to leave the position in which they had been in line of battle from the 13th to the morning of the 15th, and to advance upon the enemy, and they know further the feeling of their respective commands on the same subject.

I have stated in my official report, and I reiterate here, that—

> I had resisted the popular clamor for an advance, which began from the moment the enemy set his polluting foot upon the eastern bank of the Mississippi River. I had resisted, I believe, the universal sentiment of the army—I know of my general officers—in its favor (I now add, there may have been an exception or two), and yielded only to the orders of my superior.

I do not say, nor have I ever said, that General Johnston ordered me to make precisely the movement I did make. He did, however, order a movement, the consequences of which would, in my judgment, have been utterly disastrous had I attempted literally to execute it. But when it was known that General Johnston had ordered an advance, the weight of his name made the pressure upon me too heavy to bear, and a movement became necessary. The council was, I think, nearly equally divided in opinion as to the respective advantages of the two movements. Among others, those of most experience and of highest rank advocated that which was ultimately adopted by my accepting what I declared to be in my judgment only the lesser of two evils.

When, on April 28, General Bowen informed me by telegraph that "transports and barges loaded down with troops were landing at Hard Times, on the west bank," I made the best arrangements I could, if it became necessary to forward to his assistance as rapidly as possible all the troops not, in my opinion, absolutely indispensable to prevent a *coup de main*, should it be attempted against Vicksburg. It was indispensable to maintain a sufficient force to hold Snyder's Mill, Chickasaw Bayou, the city front, and Warrenton, a line of over 20 miles in length.

In addition to his troops at Young's Point (whose strength I had no means of ascertaining), which constantly threatened my upper positions, the enemy had, as has already been shown, a large force at Hard Times and afloat on transports between Vicksburg and Grand Gulf, which threatened the latter as well as Warrenton, where a landing under cover of his gunboats might have been easily effected, and his whole army concentrated there instead of at Bruinsburg; and this movement would have placed him at once west of the Big Black. It was impossible for me to form an estimate of his absolute or relative strength at the two points named.

To concentrate my whole force south and east of Big Black for the support of General Bowen against a landing at Grand Gulf, or any point south of it not yet apparently even threatened, would, I think, have been unwise, to say the least of it. To show that I was not alone in my opinion, I add a telegram from General Stevenson, then commanding the troops in and about Vicksburg:

The men will be ready to move promptly. To cross the Mississippi, both gunboats and transports must pass the batteries at Grand Gulf. An army large enough to defend itself on this side would consume much time in crossing. As it is not known what force has been withdrawn from this front, it is not improbable that the force opposite Grand Gulf is there to lay waste the country on that side and a feint to withdraw troops from a main attack here. I venture to express the hope that the troops will not be removed far until further developments below render it certain that they will cross in force.

On April 30, I received by telegraph from General Bowen the first information of the landing of the enemy at Bruinsburg, and on the following day (May 1) the battle of Port Gibson was lost by us.

In corroboration of the statements made with regard to the threatening aspect of affairs toward Vicksburg and its flank defenses, I beg leave to draw attention to the following dispatches from General Stevenson:

VICKSBURG, *May* 29.

Eight boats loaded with troops from our front are now moving up Yazoo. The display made in moving them showed a desire to attract our attention.

MAY 30.

The enemy have been shelling Snyder's at long range most of the day. Forney thinks that five regiments have landed at Blake's lower quarters.

The only instructions or suggestions received from General Johnston in reference to the movements at Grand Gulf are contained in the following dispatches, which were dated and received after the battle of Port Gibson, and when our army in retreat from that position was recrossing the Big Black:

TULLAHOMA, *May* 1.

If Grant's army lands on this side of the river, the safety of Mississippi depends on beating it. For that object you should unite your whole force.

TULLAHOMA, *May* 2.

If Grant crosses, unite your whole force to beat him. Success will give back what was abandoned to win it.

The question of supplies and the necessity of a sufficient cavalry force (without which I was powerless) to protect my communications, in event of a movement south of Big Black toward Bayou Pierre, has been sufficiently referred to in the body of my report.

I have one more remark to make with reference to cavalry: General Johnston informed me about the middle of April that he had ordered a brigade to my assistance. So far as my knowledge extends, it did not enter the limits of my department. For a few days subsequently, General Johnston notified me that a strong force of the enemy in front of Roddey prevented his leaving Northern Alabama at that time, and requested me, if possible, to send a force to co-operate with him. To this I replied, under date of April 20, from Jackson, reminding him that I had but a feeble cavalry force, but that I would certainly give Colonel [P. D.] Roddey all the aid I could, and added:

I have virtually no cavalry from Grand Gulf to Yazoo City, while the enemy is threatening to cross the river between Vicksburg and Grand Gulf, having twelve vessels below Vicksburg.

In relation to the battle of Baker's Creek, I wish to add a few words in elucidation of my official report: When I left my position at Edwards Depot, it was with the expectation of encountering the enemy. I was, therefore, neither surprised nor alarmed when on the night of the 15th I learned his close proximity; nor should I have then desired or attempted to avoid a battle, but for my anxiety to comply with General Johnston's instructions of the 15th instant, in which he says:

The only mode by which we can unite is by your moving directly to Clinton, informing me, that we may move to that point with about 6,000.

The remainder of this dispatch is embodied in my report. I used every exertion to comply implicitly with his directions, but the enemy prevented it. It appears, as will be seen by reference, that General Johnston supposed the enemy to be still at Jackson when he wrote on the 15th, while in his note of the 14th (received subsequently), the enemy being then also at Jackson, he informs me that the force under General Gist, he hopes—

will be able to prevent the enemy in Jackson from drawing provisions from the east. This one [Gregg's, with which he was present in person] may be able to keep him from the country toward Panola. Can he supply himself from the Mississippi? Can you not cut him off from it; and, above all, should he be compelled to fall back for want of supplies, beat him?

The remainder of this dispatch is also contained in my report.

I here insert a dispatch from General Johnston not given or referred to in my report:

CALHOUN STATION, *May* 16.

I have just received a dispatch from Captain [W. S.] Yerger, informing me that a detachment of his squadron went into Jackson this morning just as the enemy was

leaving it. They (the Federals) took the Clinton road. It is matter of great anxiety to me to add this little force to your army, but the enemy being exactly between us, and consultation by correspondence so slow, it is difficult to arrange a meeting. I will take the route you suggest, however, if I understand it. We have small means of transportation, however. Send forward a little cavalry to communicate with me orally. Is the force between us too strong for you to fight, if it interposes itself?

The various suggestions and instructions in these dispatches seem to me to evidence a want of clear and well-defined plans, and all, however, seem to ignore Vicksburg, the defense of which I had conceived to be the main purpose of the Government in retaining the army in Mississippi.

I would only further remark that when General Johnston, on May 13, informed me that Sherman was at Clinton, and ordered me to attack him in the rear, neither he nor I knew that Sherman was in the act of advancing on Jackson, which place he entered at 12 o'clock on the next day; that a corps of the enemy was at Raymond, following Sherman's march upon Jackson, and that another corps was near Dillon's, probably moving in the same direction, and consequently that the order to attack Sherman could not be executed. Nor was I myself aware, until several hours after I had received and promised to obey the order, that it could not be obeyed without the destruction of my army; but on my arrival at Edwards Depot, two hours after I received the order, I found a large force of the enemy near Dillon's, on my right flank, and ready to attack me in the flank or rear if I moved on Clinton. Not being able, therefore, to make the movement, I determined, in consequence of the wish indicated by General Johnston's order for a forward movement on my part, to make the only movement of that description which gave any promise of success; and, in so doing, I relinquished my own plans for the purpose of carrying out what I supposed to be those of General Johnston.

The battle of Baker's Creek and the entire consequences of my movement resulted from General Johnston's order, and he is in part responsible for them, for if that order had never been given, the battle of Baker's Creek would not have been fought.

In relation to General Johnston's complaint that I had made my report direct to the War Department instead of to him, I am surprised, inasmuch as General Johnston had been previously informed by the War Department that I had the right to do so.

In conclusion, I earnestly ask that there may be as little delay as possible in reconvening the court of inquiry directed to investigate the subjects herein referred to.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General.

*ADDENDA.**

VICKSBURG, *July* 2, 1863.

A meeting of the general officers (Major-Generals Stevenson, Smith, Bowen, and Forney) and Lieutenant-General Pemberton, when the following, in substance, was spoken:

All agree to the impracticability of the marching of the troops on any forced march, and exhibit brigadier-generals' reports.

General PEMBERTON. You all know General Johnston's dispatches. You are of opinion to what extent he can aid us?

* Memorandum found among the "Pemberton papers."

General BOWEN. I understand he cannot give us aid in raising the siege. I have no hopes of his doing so.

General SMITH. I am of opinion it is due to himself to fight Grant. I believe he has had a battle probably already, but I believe he has not the ability to aid us now, and I see no probability of his being able to raise the siege.

(They reread from memory J. E. Johnston's dispatches, and judge therefrom that there is a more cheerful tone in his last dispatch; still, they concur.)

General Pemberton desires generals to understand J. E. Johnston's position. They do not hold out any hopes of raising the siege now, whatever he may have intended.

General PEMBERTON. The next point is to consider how long we can remain in *statu quo*, remain as we are until we are minus food, and surrender, or make proposition.

General BOWEN. I am decidedly of opinion to propose to General Grant now, and then we can have some alternative after, if he refuses.

All are agreed upon proposing terms of capitulation at once.

MODE OF CAPITULATION—TERMS.

General PEMBERTON. That we be allowed to move out with all troops; that we can march with arms and officers' personal effects, as is customary, servants and baggage, &c., and not less than eight days' full rations.

Is it better that General Pemberton address Grant or appoint three commissioners to meet three of Grant's commissioners?

Generals Bowen and Stevenson propose the latter, and it is adopted.

It is proposed that one of General Pemberton's staff officers goes and proposes the commission. The general does not deem it important as what officer, as long as he selects the officer. An officer is selected—General Bowen—and the following note is to be conveyed.

This is read to generals and approved.

L. M. M. [MONTGOMERY.]

JANUARY 25, 1863.—Scout between Bolivar, Tenn., and Ripley, Miss.

Report of Maj. Daniel M. Emerson, First West Tennessee Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST WEST TENNESSEE CAVALRY,
Bolivar, Tenn., January 28, 1863.

SIR: On the 25th day of January, 1863, in pursuance of Special Orders, No. 17, post headquarters, with a detachment of First West Tennessee Cavalry and the independent companies of the Tippah and Mississippi Rangers, I proceeded to scout the country between Bolivar, Tenn., and Ripley, Miss., to break up the guerrilla bands infesting that neighborhood.

About 4 p. m., after I had proceeded about 18 miles, my rear guard was attacked by 15 men, who fired a volley, disabling a horse belonging to Private John Rose, of the First West Tennessee Cavalry; he, being thrown to the ground, was captured by them. As soon as the firing was heard, I immediately faced the column about, and pursued them about

2 miles into a piece of woods, when they scattered in different directions, making farther pursuit useless. They were dressed partly in Federal uniform, and were a portion of the noted Sol. [G.] Street's company of guerrillas, who infest that section of the country.

January 26.—I scouted the woods and by-paths supposed to be frequented by the enemy, but was unsuccessful in meeting him; learned that he camped a short distance from me the night before, his force not being sufficient to attack me.

January 27.—On the march to-day captured the following Confederates, viz: F. M. Stewart, lieutenant-colonel Twenty-second Tennessee Infantry; F. Stith, lieutenant and adjutant Twenty-second Tennessee Infantry; N. Crouch, private Twenty-third Mississippi Infantry, and J. C. Jackson, Thirty-seventh Mississippi Infantry. In conversing with these officers, I found their intentions were to pass our lines during the night between Bolivar and Grand Junction, and make their way to Shelby County, Tennessee. They undoubtedly were going to recruit for their regiment. The privates were found at their houses, being at home on furlough. My intentions were to proceed to Ripley, Miss., but having received reliable information that a regiment of rebel cavalry was there, I thought it prudent not to venture farther, so I commenced my march toward Bolivar, bringing my prisoners with me. Camped about 30 miles from Bolivar, the enemy following near.

January 28.—Resumed march toward Bolivar, and arrived here about 4 p. m., and turned the prisoners over to the provost-marshal for disposal.

The independent rangers were of great service to me as guides, they being residents of the country I passed through. My whole command behaved themselves on the march well. Nothing has been done, to my knowledge, contrary to existing orders.

All of which I beg leave to submit.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL M. EMERSON,
Major, Commanding First West Tennessee Cavalry.

Capt. JOHN PEETZ, *Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

JANUARY 27, 1863.—Affair near Germantown, Tenn.

Report of Col. Ephraim R. Eckley, Eightieth Ohio Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Seventh Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.

CAMP NEAR GERMANTOWN, *January* 28, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on yesterday a forage train from this brigade was attacked by a force of rebel cavalry of about 75. The escort covered the train, and brought it off in safety without any loss to this brigade. But a party of 24, of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, being in the same vicinity, were drawn into ambush and fired on by the whole party. Three were killed, 3 wounded (2 seriously), and 16 missing.

I sent re-enforcements immediately, but they retreated hastily across the Coldwater. I immediately placed a force of infantry at the bridge across the Nonconnah, and informed Colonel Lee, of the Seventh Kansas, who sent a force of cavalry this morning at daylight down the Hernando road and another to Miller's Bridge, who are pressing them hard.

Their force south of the Coldwater and west of Byhalia is represented to be at least 500 strong. They have annoyed us almost every day by sending small parties to attack and harass our trains and pickets. As yet we have, by caution, prevented any [loss] to my command, except 1 private was slightly [wounded] in the leg while on picket.

I am still confident that no one has been permitted to cross the railroad without permission.

The almost impassable condition of the roads has, I think, saved us from a general attack from the south. Citizens who communicate with me confidentially inform me that it is [G. L.] Blythe's force that is in our front. [R. V.] Richardson's force is badly cut up, and is no longer formidable for mischief.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. R. ECKLEY,
Colonel, Commanding Second Brigade.

Capt. M. ROCHESTER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

JANUARY 28, 1863.—Skirmish near Yorkville, Tenn.

Report of Col. Oliver Wood, Twenty-second Ohio Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Trenton, Tenn., January 29, 1863.

SIR: I have to report to you concerning the skirmish near Yorkville, Tenn. (15 miles northwest of Trenton), as follows, viz:

Yesterday, 28th instant, about 9 a. m., the detachment of infantry, 110 men, under command of Captain Govette, Twenty-second Regiment Ohio Volunteers, after having been divided into four parties for foraging, were attacked by [W. A.] Dawson and his band, 98 or 99 men (as the citizens report). The party which was attacked numbered 30 in all, under the immediate command of Captain Govette, who, with the assistance of Captain Moffitt and 10 men of the Eleventh Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, soon repulsed Dawson, with no loss whatever on our side. Dawson lost 1 killed and 5 wounded; also 2 horses wounded.

Immediately after the skirmish, our forage party commenced gathering what they had left when attacked, making in all 6 wagon loads of corn and 2,000 pounds of salted meats, which will be sent to Jackson to-night, excepting the meat. The infantry detachment (Twenty-second Ohio) will return to Trenton to-night.

As soon as the cavalry which was sent for this morning arrives from Jackson, I intend sending out every horse and man that can be mounted, for the purpose of entirely clearing the country of Dawson. Last night I had occasion to send Captain Miner with 9 men, mounted, to South Gibson. On his way down he reports that he passed the picket line at Humboldt without being halted, and that the guard fired but once, and that, too, after the squad had passed.

Respectfully, yours,

O. WOOD,
Colonel, Commanding Post.

Capt. T. H. HARRIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

JANUARY 28, 1863.—Skirmish near Collierville, Tenn.

Report of Col. Albert L. Lee, Seventh Kansas Cavalry, commanding Second Brigade, Cavalry Division.

GERMANTOWN,
January 29, 1863.

Had a skirmish with 200 guerrillas south of Collierville, and killed about a dozen. Lost 1 man. All right on the road.

A. L. LEE,
Colonel, Commanding Second Brigade, Cavalry Division.

General HAMILTON.

JANUARY 28–30, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., toward Ripley, Miss.

Report of Maj. William D. Blackburn, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN.,
January 30, 1863.

SIR: In pursuance of orders, I sent Major Blackburn, in command of the effective force of this regiment, 112 men and officers, on the 28th instant, on scouting, for the purpose indicated in said order. Major Blackburn has just returned, and reports as follows:

COLONEL: In obedience to your order, I started on the morning of the 28th instant, with 103 men and 9 officers, and proceeded to Ripley, leaving Salem a little to the right, and calling on Captain Street, of guerrilla notoriety. Found no force at Ripley, except stragglers. Captured in Ripley Lieutenant-Colonel [L. B.] Hovis, of Seventh Mississippi Cavalry; Private Davis, of Seventh Mississippi Cavalry; Private Patten, of Twenty-seventh Mississippi Cavalry, and a private of Street's band; also recaptured Privates Henry [M.] Jenkins, Fred. Miller, James Cornelison, William Going, William Cornelison, J. H. Eaton, William D. Harris, S. A. Eaton, and Martin Smith, all of Company G, Sixty-sixth Indiana Infantry, who were captured at Tuscumbia Bridge, 6 miles south of Corinth, on the 27th instant; also captured a number of muskets, shot-guns, rifles, &c., which were destroyed as not worth carrying.

We patrolled the roads 4 miles south and east of Ripley. Found nothing but stragglers. Lost 1 man—taken prisoner, private Company E, while on that duty. Returned by the way of Saulsbury, and crossed the trail of 60 Southern cavalry within a mile of that place. They took the Holly Springs road, and gave out that they were Forrest's men. We were within three hours of them.

Got reliable information from Pontotoc on the 28th. Pinson's First Mississippi Cavalry was there, and Van Dorn, with his usual force, say 6,000, were then moving from near Grenada toward Verona, on the Mississippi and Ohio Railroad. They gave out that they were going north, and had ten days' rations.

All the conscripts of that region are being organized and sent to Savannah, on the Tennessee River, where they are said to be fortifying.

The roads, except near here and near Ripley, are good.

Respectfully,

EDWARD PRINCE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Lieutenant WOODWARD,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Brigade, Cavalry Division.

JANUARY 30, 1863.—Skirmish at Dyersburg, Tenn.

Report of Col. Oliver Wood, Twenty-second Ohio Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES FORCES,
Trenton, Tenn., February 4, 1863.

SIR: I respectfully send you the following report of the skirmish at Dyersburg, of the forces under my command, with [W. A.] Dawson's guerrilla band:

The expedition, consisting of 100 of the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, under Captains Burbridge and Moffitt, and 38 of the Twenty-second Ohio Volunteer Infantry, under Lieutenant Whitehead, left this place at 2 p. m. January 30, in three detachments—the right, under Captain Burbridge, taking the Newbern road; the center, Captain Moffitt, the Dyersburg road; the left, Lieutenant Whitehead, with mounted infantry, taking the Chestnut Bluff road—with orders to concentrate at Dyersburg as soon as possible.

Captain Moffitt was the first to arrive at Dyersburg, and found the enemy posted in a house at the west end of the bridge across the Forked Deer River. The rebels had been in this position for some time during the day, skirmishing with a detachment of the Third Michigan Cavalry, under Captain Quackenbush, to prevent them from crossing the bridge. It was near midnight when Captain Moffitt arrived, and, finding where the enemy was posted, ordered his men to charge, which they did in gallant style, Captain Moffitt leading the advance, completely routed them, killing 2, wounding 4, and capturing 17, when the rebels broke and fled in every direction. Captain Moffitt was severely wounded in the thigh. This was the only casualty on our side. Captains Burbridge and Quackenbush and Lieutenant Whitehead arrived soon after with their commands, and were sent in different directions in pursuit of the fugitives. The country was completely scoured for several miles in every direction, and every ferry destroyed on the Obion and Forked Deer Rivers that could be found. The search was kept up for three days, when I ordered it discontinued, the men and horses being nearly worn down from hard service and exposure. We captured in all 30 prisoners, 25 horses, and 28 guns, of all kinds, calibers, and descriptions.

Every officer and man did his duty faithfully and with alacrity. Were I to personate, duty would compel me to name every officer and man of the command. One incident will illustrate the temper of the men. Lieutenant Whitehead, commanding the mounted infantry, swam his command across a branch of the Forked Deer rather than march 2 miles to a ford, fearing that he would be behind time. Many of the horses failed on the march, and I allowed the men to take the captured horses and remount. I have taken charge of the horses that had given out on the march and brought them to this place.

I regret to state that Lieutenant Neeley, Third Michigan Cavalry, was accidentally, and, I fear, mortally, wounded in the thigh. The surgeon thinks there is but little hope of his recovery.

I left three companies of the Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, under the command of Captain Burbridge, at Dyersburg, to watch the movements of the rebels and report to me. If Dawson shows himself, we will soon be on his track.

Respectfully, yours,

O. WOOD,
Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. T. H. HARRIS, *Asst. Adjt. Gen., District of Jackson.*

FEBRUARY 2–3, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg and Warrenton batteries, and capture of the steamers A. W. Baker, Moro, and Berwick Bay by the Queen of the West.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, Ram Fleet.
No. 2.—Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner, C. S. Army, of capture of steamers.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, C. S. Army, of capture of steamers.

No. 1.

Report of Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, Ram Fleet.

U. S. STEAM RAM QUEEN OF THE WEST,
Below Vicksburg, Miss., February 2, 1863.

ADMIRAL: In compliance with your instructions [following], I started on the Queen of the West at 4.30 o'clock this morning to pass the batteries at Vicksburg and sink the rebel steamer lying before that city. I discovered immediately on starting that the change of the wheel from its former position to the narrow space behind the Queen's bulwarks did not permit the boat to be handled with sufficient accuracy. An hour or more was spent in rearranging the apparatus, and when we finally rounded the point the sun had risen, and any advantage which would have resulted from the darkness was lost to us. The rebels opened a heavy fire upon us as we neared the city, but we were only struck three times before reaching the steamer. She was lying in nearly the same position that the Arkansas occupied when General Ellet ran the Queen into her on a former occasion. The same causes which prevented the destruction of the Arkansas then saved the City of Vicksburg this morning. Her position was such that if we had run obliquely into her as we came down, the bow of the Queen would inevitably have glanced. We were compelled to partially round to in order to strike. The consequence was that at the very moment of collision the current, very strong and rapid at this point, caught the stern of my boat, and, acting on her bow as a pivot, swung her round so rapidly that nearly all her momentum was lost. I had anticipated this result, and therefore caused the starboard bow gun to be shotted with three of the incendiary projectiles recommended in your orders. As we swung around, Sergt. J. H. Campbell, detailed for the purpose, fired this gun. A 64-pounder shell crashed through the barricade just before he reached the spot, but he did not hesitate. The discharge took place at exactly the right moment, and set the rebel steamer in flames, which they subsequently succeeded in extinguishing. At this moment one of the enemy's shells set the cotton on fire near the starboard wheel, while the discharge of our own gun ignited that portion which was on the bow. The flames spread rapidly, and the dense smoke, rolling into the engine room, suffocated the engineers. I saw that if I attempted to run into the City of Vicksburg again, my boat would certainly be burned. I ordered her to be headed down stream, and turned every man to extinguishing the flames. After much exertion, we finally put out the fire by cutting the burning bales loose. The enemy, of course, were not idle. We were struck twelve times, but, though the cabin was knocked to pieces, no material injury to

* See also reports of Acting Rear-Admiral David D. Porter, U. S. Navy, in Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

the boat or to any of those on her was inflicted. About two regiments of rebel sharpshooters in rifle-pits kept up a continuous fire, but did no damage. The Queen was struck twice in the hull, but above the water line. One of our guns dismounted and ruined.

I can only speak in the highest terms of the conduct of every man on board. All behaved with cool, determined courage.

I remain, very respectfully,

CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Colonel, Commanding Ram Fleet.

Actg. Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER,
Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

ADDENDA.

YAZOO RIVER, *February* 1, 1863.

Col. CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Ram Queen of the West:

SIR: You will proceed with the Queen of the West to Vicksburg, and destroy the steamer Vicksburg, lying off that place; after which, you will proceed down the river as far as our batteries, below the canal, and report to me. In going down you will go along under low speed, having steerage-way enough, and keeping close to the right-hand shore going down. Before you start, it would be better to have a large bed of coal in, so that you will not have to put in fresh coal. The smoke might betray you. After you have destroyed the steamer, go down stream, and, when clear of the city, show three vertical lights, that our batteries may not fire on you. If you get disabled, drift down until abreast of our batteries, and the small army steamer will go to your assistance. Have every light in your ship put out before you leave for Vicksburg, except the three lights to be shown to our batteries, which must be kept covered up. See that no lights show from the stern as you pass the town, enabling them to rake you; and adopt every means of concealment. The best place to strike the steamer is 20 feet forward of her wheel. After disabling her there, so that she will sink, fire through her boilers and in among her machinery as she goes down.

It will not be part of your duty to save the lives of those on board. They must look out for themselves, and may think themselves lucky if they do not meet the same fate meted out to the Harriet Lane. Think of the fate of that vessel while performing your duty, and shout "Harriet Lane!" into the ears of the rebels. If you can fire turpentine balls from your bow field-pieces into the light upper works, it will make a fine finish to the sinking part.

Further orders for duty to be performed below will be given after your report.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER,
Acting Rear-Admiral, Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

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HDQRS. MISSISSIPPI RIVER MARINE BRIGADE,
U. S. STEAM RAM QUEEN OF THE WEST,
Below Vicksburg, Miss., February 5, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report to you that I left the landing below the cut-off about 1 p. m. on the 2d instant, and proceeded down the river.

At Warrenton, a few miles below, the enemy had two batteries, of four pieces each, of which four are 20-pounder rifled guns. They opened upon us as we passed, but only struck us twice, doing no injury.

On reaching the Big Black River, I attempted to ascend it, but found it impossible from the narrowness of the stream. Passing it, we reached Natchez just at midnight. I landed at Vidalia, on the opposite shore, threw out some pickets, and went into the village, in the hope of picking up some rebel officers.

There can be no telegraphic line between Vicksburg and this point, for not a word of our coming had reached the place, and the people scarcely knew who we were. One rebel, Colonel [Z.] York, was halted, but made so rapid a retreat that he escaped the shots fired after him. Leaving this point, I kept on down the river. We passed Ellis' Cliffs at 3 a. m. There are no fortifications at that or any other point between Warrenton and Port Hudson.

We had got about 15 miles below the mouth of Red River when we met a side-wheel steamer coming up. Her pilot blew the whistle for the Queen to take the starboard side, supposing her to be a Southern boat. Receiving no answer, and not liking the Queen's looks, as she bore straight down upon him, he ran his boat ashore. As we neared her, numerous rebel officers sprang into the water and made their escape. She proved to be the A. W. Baker; had just discharged her cargo at Port Hudson, and was returning for another. We captured on her 5 captains, 2 lieutenants, and a number of civilians, among them 7 or 8 ladies. I had just placed a guard on the boat, when another steamer was seen coming down the river. A shot across her bows brought her to. She proved to be the Moro, laden with 110,000 pounds of pork, nearly 500 hogs, and a large quantity of salt, destined for the rebel army at Port Hudson. I placed Capt. Asgill Conner in command of the captured boats, and, as the Queen's supply of coal was very limited, I thought it best to return.

A short distance above our landing, I destroyed 25,000 pounds of meal, awaiting transportation to Port Hudson.

On reaching Red River, I stopped at a plantation to put ashore the ladies, who did not wish to go any farther. I also released the civilians. While doing so, another steamboat, the Berwick Bay, came out of Red River, and was immediately seized. She was laden with supplies for the rebel forces at Port Hudson, consisting of 200 barrels of molasses, 10 hogsheads of sugar, and 30,000 pounds of flour. She had also on board 40 bales of cotton.

I ascended Red River 15 miles in the hope of getting some more boats, but found nothing.

Night came on as we again started on our return. I found at once that the progress of the three prizes was so slow that our short supply of coal would not permit us to wait for them. I accordingly ordered them to be set on fire. We had not time to transfer their cargoes. We met with no interruption on our return until we reached Warrenton. Before arriving at this point, I landed and sent my prisoners around by land, under a strong guard, to avoid exposing them to the enemy's fire.

On passing Warrenton, we found another battery had been erected there, and the three combined opened a very heavy fire upon us. They struck us several times, but did no damage worth mentioning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES RIVERS ELLET.

Brig. Gen. ALFRED W. ELLET,
Commanding Mississippi Marine Brigade.

No. 2.

Report of Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner, C. S. Army, of capture of steamers.

HEADQUARTERS, *Port Hudson, February* 5, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to inclose herewith a copy of a letter from General Sibley. I do not know the boats named, except the Baker, which I started from here, on the morning of the 2d instant, to go up Red River, and she ought to have passed into Red River before the night of the 2d. Why she did not, I do not know. This boat came down Red River on a private speculation, with salt and bacon, and, being a slow boat, I did not wish to retain her in my employ, but ordered her immediately up Red River. I have the Beaty here now, and have kept her since the gunboat passed. I sent a courier to General Sibley, and also one to Red River, on the receipt of your telegram that the gunboat had passed, but it appears to me that the information could not have reached Red River. My object was to warn boats going down, not having knowledge of any boats in danger going up, except the Beaty, which I kept at this place.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK. GARDNER,
Major-General.

Maj. J. R. WADDY, *Assistant Adjutant-General, Jackson, Miss.*

No. 3.

Report of Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, C. S. Army, of capture of steamers.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT EAST OF ATCHAFALAYA,
Rosedale, February 4, 1863.

GENERAL: I have just received a dispatch from one of my officers near the mouth of Red River, who reports that the gunboat which passed Vicksburg has appeared there; had captured three of our boats—the Moro, the Baker, and the Berwick Bay. The gunboat is the Queen of the West. She is an iron-clad, but is arranged on Magruder's plan, with cotton bales. Prisoners released from her state her armament is composed of twelve 12-pounders. She placed prize crews on the boats captured, and has proceeded up Red River. I have ordered a company of cavalry and one section of artillery to that point, to attempt the recapture of the boats, which, at last accounts, were lying near the river banks, and but slimly guarded.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. H. SIBLEY,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. Gen. FRANK. GARDNER, *Commanding at Port Hudson.*

FEBRUARY 2–5, 1863.—Reconnaissance in the vicinity of Saulsbury, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Edward Prince, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
La Grange, Tenn., February 6, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to orders of Colonel Hatch, commanding brigade, on the 2d instant, Captain Herring, of this regiment, in command of

four companies, proceeded to Saulsbury, and reported to Major Coon, Second Iowa Cavalry, by whose orders Captain Herring moved with his command 4 miles south, on the Ripley road, and encamped near the plantation of Mrs. Hines, scouting the country south and east for a distance of 5 miles, until the morning of the 5th, when he was ordered by Major Coon to return to camp.

Nothing worthy of note transpired during the expedition, except that on the 4th instant, about noon, Sergts. Daniel H. Dunbar and Edward M. Gibbs, and Privates Charles E. Smythe, Company I, and Samuel Buckingham, Company F, straggled from camp, and were surrounded by a band of men, under the guerrilla [S. G.] Street, 12 in number, to whom they surrendered without offering any resistance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD PRINCE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Lieut. SAMUEL L. WOODWARD,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Cavalry Brigade.

FEBRUARY 8, 1863.—Affair near Camp Sheldon, Miss.

Report of Lieut. Col. Charles S. Sheldon, Eighteenth Missouri Infantry.

CAMP SHELDON, *February* 8, 1863.

GENERAL: A scout from my command crossed the river to-day and had a slight skirmish with a part of Captain Smith's company (conscripts). The rebels fled in all directions, losing one gun and a quantity of provisions. Several of the enemy were wounded. Captain Smith has about 60 men. Ham is in Forks of Hatchie with about 75 men. If you can send me a company of cavalry for a few days, I will clean out that section and stir up Street.

CHARLES S. SHELDON,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

Brigadier-General DODGE, *Corinth.*

FEBRUARY 9, 1863.—Affair near Moscow, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Seth C. Earl, Fifty-third Illinois Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTY-THIRD ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Moscow, Tenn., February 9, 1863.

SIR: I have delayed making any report of the attack on our pickets until now. Acting Lieut. M. Dare, of Company E, who was in command of the men, being one of the wounded, has not been in a condition, on account of his wound, to make any report until a few moments ago, and the other reports being so indefinite that I did not consider them reliable enough to base a report on. At the same time they all went to convince me that it was neither an attack of the enemy's pickets nor even a guerrilla party, but probably some offended citizens chasing in or looking after some stragglers.

I find, however, on inquiring of the officer in command of the pickets, that as he was going from the reserve post to the advance picket, he heard some one command "halt," and saw two mounted men coming toward him, one of them having on a blue coat. He saw no arms, and

thought that they were some of our men who had been out scouting around the country. He heard them tell the pickets to hold up their hands, when, seeing they were rebels, he commanded his men to fire, but not having their guns loaded could not, but were fired on by the two horsemen, wounding, as I said before, Acting Lieut. M. Dare, of Company E, and Private John Stingly, of the same company. The two horsemen then turned and ran.

The lieutenant in command says his guns were not loaded at the time, as he had been instructed by different officers of the day to load his pieces at night. The men at the reserve post, hearing the noise, advanced and fired several times. The man who was wounded says he is confident one of the men who fired on them was a negro. The strength of that picket post is 1 commissioned officer, 2 non-commissioned, and 15 privates, 2 being on the outpost.

Very respectfully, yours,

S. C. EARL,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. W. H. F. RANDALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Fourth Division.

FEBRUARY 10, 1863.—Affair near Camp Sheldon, Miss.

Report of Lieut. Col. Charles S. Sheldon, Eighteenth Missouri Infantry.

CAMP SHELDON, *February* 10, 1863.

GENERAL: Had another skirmish to-day, capturing six guns, and overcoats, blankets, &c. Chased the enemy 3 miles, but they beat us running. One man wounded on our side.

CHARLES S. SHELDON,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

Brigadier-General DODGE, *Corinth.*

FEBRUARY 10–14, 1863.—Operations on the Red, Atchafalaya, and Black Rivers, La, and capture (14th) of the Queen of the West.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding Ram Fleet.
No. 2.—Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. Army, commanding.
No. 3.—Lieut. Col. W. S. Lovell, acting assistant adjutant and inspector general, C. S. Army.
No. 4.—Mr. George W. Koontz, Confederate States agent at Natchez.
No. 5.—Capt. John Kelso, C. S. Army, commanding Fort Taylor, La.

No. 1.

Report of Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding Ram Fleet.

U. S. STEAMER ERA No. 5,
Below Vicksburg, Miss., February 21, 1863.

ADMIRAL: I have the honor to report to you that I left the landing below Vicksburg, in obedience to your written instructions [following],

* See also Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

on the night of the 10th instant, taking with me the De Soto and coal barge, and proceeded down the river. We passed Warrenton without interruption, and reached Red River on the following evening. I destroyed, as you directed, the skiffs and flat-boats along either shore.

I ascended Red River, on the morning of the 12th, as far as the mouth of the Atchafalaya. Leaving the De Soto and coal barge in a secure position, I proceeded down this stream. Six miles from its mouth I met a train of 12 army wagons returning from Simsport. I landed and destroyed them.

On reaching Simsport, I found that two rebel steamboats had just left, taking with them the troops and artillery stationed at this point. They had left on the bank 70 barrels of Government beef, which I broke up and rolled into the river. I pursued another train of wagons for some distance, but they retreated into the swamps and escaped. One of their wagons, loaded with ammunition and stores, fell into our hands, and was destroyed.

On her return at night, a party of overseers and other civilians fired into the Queen from behind a levee, and immediately fled under cover of the darkness. First Master James D. Thompson, a gallant and efficient officer, was shot through the knee.

Anchoring at the mouth of the Atchafalaya, I waited until morning, and then returned to the spot from which we had been attacked.

All the buildings on three large adjoining plantations were burned by my order.

I started up Red River the same day, and reached Black River by night.

On the morning of the 14th instant, when about 15 miles above the mouth of Black River, a steamboat came suddenly around a sharp bend in the river, and was captured before she could escape. She proved to be the Era No. 5, laden with 4,500 bushels of corn. She had on board 2 rebel lieutenants and 14 privates. The latter I at once paroled and set ashore.

Hearing of three very large boats lying, with steam down, at Gordon's Landing, 30 miles above, I decided on making an effort to capture them, intending to return if I should find the battery at that point too strong, and ascend the Washita. I left the Era and coal barge in charge of a guard. We reached the bend just below Gordon's Landing before dusk. The dense smoke of several boats rapidly firing up could be seen over the tops of the trees as we approached. I ordered the pilot to proceed very slowly, and merely show the bow of the Queen around the point. From the sharp bend which the river makes at this place there was no apparent difficulty in withdrawing out of range of the enemy's guns whenever it might be desired. The rebels opened upon us with four 32-pounders the moment we came in sight. Their guns were in a fine position, and, at the third shot, I ordered Mr. Garvey, the pilot, to back the Queen out. Instead of doing so, he ran her aground on the right-hand shore. The position at once became a very hot one. Sixty yards below we would have been in no danger; as it was, the enemy's shots struck us nearly every time. The chief engineer had hardly repeated to me that the escape-pipe had been shot away, when an explosion below and a rush of steam around the boat told me that the steam-pipe had been cut in two. Nothing further, of course, could be done. I gave orders to lower the yawl at the stern of the Queen, to carry off Captain Thompson, who lay wounded in my state-room. Some persons had already taken the yawl, however, and it was gone. The other yawl was on the De Soto, a short distance below. Fortunately,

the cotton-bales with which the Queen was protected, afforded an avenue of escape, and the majority of the men and officers succeeded in reaching the De Soto. I ordered this boat to be brought up as far as it was practicable without being struck, and sent her yawl to the Queen. Lieutenant [John L.] Tuthill and Third Master Duncan bravely volunteered for this purpose.

I remained with the De Soto over an hour, picking up men on cotton-bales. Lieutenant Tuthill barely succeeded in escaping from the Queen, the rebels boarding her in skiffs as he escaped. Mr. Duncan staid too long and was captured. The Queen could easily have been burned, but this could not be done while Captain Thompson was on board, and it was impossible to remove him. All the passages had been blocked up with cotton. The interior of the boat was intensely dark, full of steam, and strewn with shattered furniture. The display of a light enabled the batteries to strike her with unerring certainty. To have brought the De Soto alongside would have insured her destruction, as the light from the latter's furnaces rendered her a conspicuous mark. A dense fog sprang up as we started down in the De Soto, and she lost her rudders by running into the bank. Drifting down 15 miles, I took possession of the Era, and scuttled and burned the De Soto and barge. Knowing that the rebels would lose no time in pursuing, I pushed on down through the fog, throwing off the corn to lighten her. We reached the Mississippi at dawn, opposite Ellis' Cliffs. Mr. Garvey ran the Era, a boat drawing less than 2 feet of water, "hard aground," actually permitting her wheels to make several revolutions after she had struck, and it was with the utmost difficulty she could be gotten off. The disloyal sentiments openly expressed by Mr. Garvey a few hours previous to this occurrence rendered it necessary for me to place him under arrest, and fixed upon me the unwilling conviction that the loss of the Queen was due to the deliberate treachery of her pilot. It is to be regretted that the unfortunate illness of Mr. Scott Long, who piloted the Queen past Vicksburg, rendered it necessary for me to intrust the Queen to the management of Mr. Garvey.

The next morning, a short distance below Natchez, I met the Indianola. Captain [George] Brown thought that he might be able to ascend Red River and destroy the battery at Gordon's Landing, and I accompanied him down in the Era, leading the way. I had not gone 3 miles when a break in the dense fog disclosed a steamer rapidly moving up stream about a mile ahead. I at once rounded to, and caused the whistle to be blown, to warn Captain Brown of her presence. As soon as the rebel steamer, which was undoubtedly the Webb, perceived the Indianola, she turned and fled. The latter fired two shots at her, but without effect. I learned afterward that three other armed boats had been sent in pursuit of the Era, and had been turned back by the Webb on her retreat. They all went back up the Red River.

On reaching this stream, Captain Brown decided not to ascend it, and I thought it best to return at once. Thinking we might be attacked on the way up, I seized 170 bales of cotton, and protected the Era's machinery as far as practicable. At Saint Joseph I landed and seized the mails, and learned from them that Colonel [Wirt] Adams was waiting for us at Grand Gulf with two pieces of artillery. Thirty-six shots were fired at the Era while passing this point, none of which took effect. On reaching Island No. 107, a body of riflemen opened a heavy fire upon the Era from the Mississippi shore. Suspecting it to be a ruse to draw us to the other side of the river, I decided on keeping to the right of the island. The furnaces of the Era became so clogged at this point that

I found it necessary to stop and have them cleaned out, a delay of twenty minutes being caused by this. The Era had scarcely passed the island when a battery of three guns opened upon us from the Louisiana shore. Forty-six shots were fired, but did no injury.

At Warrenton, the rebels opened fire upon the Era with two rifled 20-pounder guns. They fired twenty-four shots, but did not succeed in striking her. Extraordinary as it may appear, there is even reason to believe that no one was killed on the Queen. It is probably attributable to the fact that those below got into the hold through the numerous hatches, and thus escaped the effects of the steam. Mr. Taylor, one of the engineers, is reported by a deserter from the Webb to be badly scalded.

Twenty-four men were taken prisoners, 10 of whom were civilians employed on the boat. Assistant Surgeon Booth was the only commissioned officer captured.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Commanding Ram Fleet.

Actg. Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER,
Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

ADDENDA.

UNITED STATES MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON,
February 8, 1863.

Col. CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Commanding Mississippi Ram Fleet:

COLONEL: When you have taken in your coal, you will proceed at night, after dark, with the De Soto and the coal barge, down the river, showing no lights. When you get near Red River, wait until daylight, above the mouth; from there you will be able to see the smoke of any steamer over the trees as she comes down Red River. When you capture them, do not burn them until you have broken all the machinery. Then let go the anchors, and let them burn under your own eyes at their anchors. There will be no danger, then, of any part of them floating down to the enemy.

There is one vessel (the Webb) that you must look out for. If you can get the first crack at her you will sink her, and if she gets the first crack at you she will sink you. My advice is to put a few cotton bales over your bow, about 15 feet abaft the stem, and if she strikes you then, there will be no harm done. It is likely that an attempt will be made to board you. If there is, do not open any doors or ports to board in return, but act on the defensive, giving the enemy steam and shell.

Do not forget to wet your cotton before going into action. Do not lose sight of the De Soto, unless in chase, and under circumstances when it will be perfectly safe. When your coal is all out of the barge, you can take the De Soto alongside. You can help each other along. Destroy her at once when there is the least chance of her falling into the hands of the enemy. She is now, though, a Government vessel, and should be brought back if possible. Destroy all small boats you meet with on the river; also wharf-boats and barges. If you have a chance, and have plenty of coal, take a look at Port Hudson, and give them a few rifle-shots, but do not pass by. Communicate with the squadron below by signal, if possible. The great object is to destroy all you can of the

enemy's stores and provisions, and get your vessel back safe. Pass all batteries at night. If the canal is opened, I will keep you supplied with coal.

Keep your pilot-house well supplied with hand-grenades, &c., in case the enemy should get on your upper decks. Do not show your colors along the river, unless necessary in action.

Very respectfully;

DAVID D. PORTER,
Acting Rear-Admiral, Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

No. 2.

Report of Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. Army, Commanding.

ALEXANDRIA, [*February*] 15, 1863.
(Received at Richmond, February 22.)

The ram Queen of the West was captured at the fortifications below this point on the 14th, with all her armament and supplies. Most of the crew and commanding officer escaped on another boat. The De Soto, a small boat, filled up with cotton, and the consort of the ram, was sunk in the same engagement.

R. TAYLOR,
Major-General.

General S. COOPER.

No. 3.

Report of Lieut. Col. W. S. Lovell, Acting Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General, C. S. Army.

JACKSON, MISS., *February* 28, 1863.

GENERAL: In compliance with Special Orders, No. 35, dated Jackson, Miss., February 4, 1863, I proceeded with all possible dispatch to Trinity, La., at which point I arrived on the 8th instant, and found that the Webb had left the day before for Alexandria, by command of General Taylor, to fit out at that place. I pushed on immediately, and arrived at the latter place on the evening of the 10th. I met General Taylor on my way up Red River, and showed him my orders. He informed me that he had placed an officer in command of the Webb, and asked me to go and assist in getting her ready. I replied that I was ordered to take command, and, unless allowed to do so, would return. He then indorsed my orders to take command, which I did on the 11th instant.

I found that nothing had been done to the Webb except a little calking on the outside, and nothing at all to either of the other two boats which had been ordered to be fitted out. I had the greatest difficulty in getting carpenters to work on the vessels, although I offered them every inducement. I had the same difficulty with negroes. The committee who were building a raft in Red River furnished me with thirty; they rent twenty more, but would not allow them to go on board the Grand Duke, the other vessel being fitted out, she having had a case of small-pox on board some days previous. I was unable until the third

day after I arrived to get the number of carpenters and negroes I required, Major [E.] Surget pressing the latter force.

At 1.30, Monday morning, I received information from Major Surget that the enemy had attacked Fort Taylor, at Gordon's Landing, in Red River, and he requested me to go down with all possible dispatch and assist the fort. I reported the Webb ready by 7 in the morning. By 9 I received a detachment of about 100 officers and men and left Alexandria. The Webb was by no means properly protected, not having had sufficient time; the boilers, about 30 feet long and 4 feet above the water line, had no protection whatever, saving the sides of the vessel, which could easily be penetrated by a Minie ball. On my arrival at Fort Taylor, I found that the Queen of the West had surrendered about 8 o'clock, having had one of her steam pipes cut; that the commanding officer and a number of the crew had escaped on the steamer Era No. 5, having first burned the steamer De Soto. I pushed on with all speed after the Era No. 5, and arrived in the Mississippi River at about 9 o'clock in the evening. The fog at that time was so dense that we could make but little or no progress; finally it became so thick that we had to tie up. The pilots did everything in their power to make progress. We made only a few miles from 9 in the evening until 9 in the morning, when we started again. Had to work along very slowly, as the fog was still very thick. On my way down the Red River I captured 9 men belonging to the Queen of the West, one her second mate. He informed me that Colonel Ellet expected a powerful iron-clad to meet him at the mouth of Red River, and that it was time for her to be along, at the same time advising me to keep a bright lookout for her.

I received information in the Mississippi River that another gunboat had passed Vicksburg on Friday night, 13th instant. Off Ellis' Cliffs, about 5.15 in the evening, I saw two chimneys sticking up through the fog; supposing it to be the Era No. 5, pushed on; shortly afterward I saw another pair of chimneys; I at once concluded they must be the gunboat and Era No. 5. An officer from aloft reported three steamers in sight. A number of officers were confident they saw three. From the information received, and the steamer appearing very low in the water in the fog, I was fully convinced she was an iron-clad, as was all my officers. I supposed the steamers to be from 2 to 2½ miles from us; the captain of the Webb, an old pilot, thought about 1½ miles. It was impossible to tell on account of the fog. One of the vessels fired at us three times. We endeavored to reply, but our friction-primers failed. I turned around and made all possible dispatch down the river, fearful that the fog would again rise and that the steamers Louis d'Or and Grand Duke would pass me and fall into the hands of the enemy, they following me up. I succeeded in turning them and other steamers back. I arrived at Fort Taylor Monday morning, the 18th instant; made a report to General Taylor, and asked him what disposition he wished made of the Webb, stating that I had done all I could under orders from you. I informed him I should remain at Gordon's Landing, to assist the fort in case of an attack, until I learned his wishes. Immediately on receiving my communication, General Taylor sent me orders to assume command of the forces at Fort Taylor, which I did. On his arrival I turned the Webb over to him. Shortly afterward he relieved me by one of his staff officers, saying he did not feel authorized to detain me any longer than possible. I left as soon as possible for this place. Lieutenant [J. H.] Morrison rendered me great assistance. His ability and efficiency throughout contributed largely to further all my efforts, and I am greatly indebted to him for the willingness and promptitude with which

he performed all the duties assigned to him by me, for which I take this occasion to return him my thanks.

I am, general, very respectfully, yours,

W. S. LOVELL,
Lieut. Col. and Acting Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Comdg. Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISSISSIPPI AND EASTERN LOUISIANA,
Jackson, March 2, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded for information of General J. E. Johnston and War Department.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

No. 4.

Reports of Mr. George W. Koontz, Confederate States agent at Natchez.

NATCHEZ, [*February*] 17, 1863.
(Received February 19.)

The Yankee iron-clad gunboat Indianola passed here Sunday at 3 p. m. She laid 10 miles below here yesterday morning. The Queen of the West and De Soto passed up Red River on Friday evening. On their way up, captured the steamboat Era No. 5. The Queen of the West attacked our batteries at Fort Taylor, but was very soon disabled by our guns and got aground, when Colonel [C. R.] Ellet and many of the men abandoned her, floating off on cotton bales, and she is now supposed to be in our possession. Before the Queen of the West went up Red River, she went down the Atchafalaya near Simsport and destroyed five or six plantations. After Colonel Ellet and some of the men abandoned the Queen of the West, they went on board the Era No. 5, which lay some 5 miles below the batteries, and came out of Red River, and yesterday morning gained the Indianola, 10 miles below here. This information I got from a white boy who was a prisoner on board. During the engagement, the De Soto was destroyed in sight of our batteries by the enemy. The boy was brought up on the Era. I consider the information reliable. The Indianola has no doubt gone down. A courier has been sent to Alexandria.

GEO. W. KOONTZ,
Government Agent.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

NATCHEZ, [*February* 18, 1863.]
(Received February 19.)

The following official report of the engagement on the Red River received from Alexandria to-day:*

* * * * * * *

There has been nothing further heard from the Indianola since my

* See No. 5, p. 348.

dispatch of yesterday. This afternoon, at 4 o'clock, the Era No. 5 passed up alone, with one tier of cotton on her and apparently very few men.

GEO. W. KOONTZ,
Government Agent.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

No. 5.

Report of Capt. John Kelso, C. S. Army, commanding Fort Taylor, La.

HEADQUARTERS RED RIVER FORTIFICATIONS,
February 15, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that two Federal gunboats made their appearance in front of this position at 5 p. m. last evening. I had previously assigned every officer to his post; fire was therefore instantly opened on the enemy.

After a brief cannonade, the leading gunboat, the Queen of the West, struck her colors.

Immediately ordered Captain [T. H.] Hutton, of the Crescent Artillery, and Second Junior Lieutenant Delahunty to go on board and demand the unconditional surrender of the boat, officers, and crew. These officers report that but 13 officers and crew were found on board, the others having escaped under cover of the night.

The visible results of the capture consist in one 32-pounder rifled Parrott gun, one 24-pounder rifled Parrott gun, three 12-pounder Porfield brass pieces, one 12-pounder Porfield brass piece, slightly damaged (I use the expression of the senior commanding officer), a tremendous supply of ordnance stores, a large supply of quinine, one fine case amputating instruments, one equally fine dental instrument, and other very superior cases of surgical instruments, clothing, bacon, flour, beef, pork, hard bread, and other stores in proportion.

The list of prisoners I inclose.*

Allow me, major, to mention that for coolness and efficiency the officers and privates of this command are entitled to eminent credit.

To satisfy you of the precision and accuracy of the fire, thirteen out of thirty-one shots from our batteries took effect on the enemy's boat.

Lieut. James Delahunty performed efficient service; he suggested and volunteered to fire a warehouse which would give us the enemy's range and position. In spite of the darkness, he accomplished this important and difficult undertaking with perfect success and signal gallantry.

All my officers discharged their duties with promptness and exemplary coolness.

I omitted to mention that the boat was loaded with bales of cotton.

I have the honor to remain, major, your obedient servant,

J. KELSO,
Captain, Commanding Post.

Maj. E. SURGET,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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* List not found.

FEBRUARY 13–14, 1863.—Expedition from La Grange, Tenn., to Mount Pleasant and Lamar, Miss.

Report of Maj. William D. Blackburn, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *February* 15, 1863.

COLONEL: In obedience to orders, I started on the 13th, with about 130 men and 7 commissioned officers, to Mount Pleasant, by way of Moscow. Camped the first night near Moscow, in the night, without feed. Reported early next morning to the adjutant-general at Moscow, the commanding officer being absent, and asked for information. Learned that there were 500 or 600 rebels near Mount Pleasant, who moved from there to Early Grove and back at pleasure. Went from thence to Mount Pleasant; visited all the haunts of the supposed rebels, and found none there, *nor has there been*, except Mitchell's men, not to exceed 60, a few Texas Rangers, say 20, and some few times Street's expeditions reach that far, but very seldom.

We found the country from Mount Pleasant to Lamar full of stragglers. We chased and fired at several of them, but did not succeed in capturing any. Many of the young men in that region have discharges or paroles either of their own or some one else. We brought in two as specimens. One claimed to be discharged, but had a Federal overcoat and Federal saddle, bridle, and halter. The negroes in the neighborhood say they are both secesh soldiers and are spies. These papers are herewith inclosed.*

We staid last night 3 miles south of Early Grove, and returned to camp about noon to-day. Found the road desperately bad.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. D. BLACKBURN,
Major Seventh Regiment Illinois Cavalry Volunteers.

FEBRUARY 14–26, 1863.—Expedition to Greenville, Miss., and Cypress Bend, Ark., with skirmishes (19th) at Cypress Bend and (23d) at Deer Creek and Fish Lake Bridge, near Greenville.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Stephen G. Burbridge, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. S. W. Ferguson, C. S. Army, of skirmish (23d) at Fish Lake Bridge.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Stephen G. Burbridge, U. S. Army.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., TENTH DIV., THIRTEENTH A. C.,
Young's Point, La., February 27, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade against rebel forces at Greenville and other places:

In obedience to Special Orders, No. 44, dated Headquarters Tenth

* Not found.

Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, Department of the Tennessee, Young's Point, La., February 13, 1863, this brigade embarked on transports on the morning of the 14th instant, and moved to Greenville, which place we reached at 10 a. m. of the 16th instant. I immediately disembarked my command, and moved out on the Vicksburg road to the plantation of Smith and Hood, on Deer Creek, 7½ miles from Greenville. At this point I learned that the rebel force, consisting of six pieces of artillery and a force of cavalry and infantry, variously estimated at from 300 to 1,000, had passed this place, going toward Bolivar, 20 miles distant. As the roads were almost impassable, in consequence of rain, which had been falling since we left our transports, the command rested here and returned to the boats next morning.

On the morning of the 18th, I moved the fleet to Cypress Bend, where, but a few days previous, a transport had been fired into, and on the morning of the 19th started a detachment of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, under Major [Bacon] Montgomery and Captain Chambers, and about 50 infantry, mounted on mules. About 4 miles from the river they encountered a small picket force and drove it to their camp, killing 1 and capturing the lieutenant in command. Six miles farther on they encountered a battery, which opened upon them from the opposite bank of Boggy Bayou, which at this point runs nearly parallel with the river, and connects with Cypress Bayou 8 miles from the point where our transports were. There is another bayou which flows into Boggy Bayou at the place where the battery was planted.

Major Montgomery had retired to the banks of Cypress Bayou, and was engaging a small force of the enemy from the opposite bank of the stream when the advance of the infantry came up. I immediately threw the Twenty-third Wisconsin into line and opened fire upon them, but they were not dislodged until a few rounds of canister had been fired into them. I could not ascertain definitely their loss from this fire. Before the infantry came up, they had lost 2 men killed and 3 horses. We lost the same number of horses. I then moved my command to the point where the artillery had been in the morning. I had some difficulty in crossing at this point, as they had taken the skiff and ferry-boat up the other bayou, and I was compelled to send men over after them on temporary rafts. After shelling the enemy from the bank with two pieces of the Seventeenth Ohio Battery, a private of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry attempted to swim it, and reached the opposite bank, but was compelled to return on account of the enemy's fire. Night came on, and I was compelled to halt the command for want of sufficient knowledge of the roads.

On the morning of the 20th, a gun, which they were compelled to abandon, and had concealed in the canebrake, was brought in by the cavalry. The gun is a 12-pounder howitzer, stamped U. S., 1828.

Hearing from three deserters, who came in to us on the morning of the 20th, that the enemy had gone beyond our reach, I returned to the transports, and remained there that night, intending to drop down next morning to Perkins' Landing, 4 miles from Cypress Bend, where I had heard I could, by a road leading into the Bolivar and Vicksburg road, cut off the retreat of Colonel [S. W.] Ferguson's force, and compel him to give battle or surrender; but the weather was so inclement that I remained at Cypress Bend, while Captain Sutherland, of the steam ram Monarch, went up to Bolivar to hear of the location of the enemy. He reported that the whole force had left Bolivar the day previous and had returned to the vicinity of Greenville.

The rain continuing to fall, the next day, February 22, I took the

opportunity to wood my transports at Island No. 82. We took on nearly 1,000 cords of wood, which we found there. I also landed at Perkins' Landing, and sent my cavalry to ascertain where the enemy was, and their retreat toward Greenville was corroborated. I then moved down to Greenville, and remained that night on the transports.

At daylight on the morning of the 23d, I ordered one regiment, the Eighty-third Ohio, Major L'Hommedieu commanding, to move out of the road we had previously marched over, in order to draw the enemy to that point, while I moved the remainder of the command by another route, which was a little farther, but the streams that we would be compelled to cross were narrower.

On the former road was a bridge about 150 feet in length, crossing Fish Lake, 6 miles from Greenville; this bridge had been burned the day after my first expedition returned. On the road I marched my command there was one stream, which was very narrow, to be crossed; the bridges over both had been burned. I therefore took the staging of a steamboat with me for the purpose of making a bridge, if necessary; I did not use them, however, as they had left a bridge near the one they had burned, perhaps with the purpose of misleading me, but probably because the stream was fordable. I took the timber from this bridge, and in a half hour had reconstructed the bridge which had been burned.

My force of cavalry had been increased by a small detachment of the Second Illinois Cavalry, under Maj. John J. Mudd, who were on their way to Young's Point. I gave Colonel Wright, of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, who was with me on the expedition, and rendered me efficient service, command of all the cavalry.

We had hardly completed the bridge, when the enemy opened with three guns on the Eighty-third Ohio from the opposite side of Fish Lake, and I immediately ordered the cavalry forward, hoping that I might be able to cut off their retreat before they discovered my movement; but their pickets, which we encountered here, gave them word, and they had the advance of our cavalry about 2 miles. A short distance beyond the Smith and Hood farm is a bend in Deer Creek, in which is a plantation. They had taken the road, and I therefore ordered the cavalry forward across this field. As they crossed this field the enemy opened the battery on them. They encountered here the cavalry of the enemy, and drove them before them, separating them from their artillery.

I had heard of a bridge in another bend of the creek below this, and directed the cavalry to take it, which they did in gallant style, driving the guard from it.

In the skirmish at this place we lost 1 killed, of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, and 2 prisoners, of the Second Illinois. The loss of the enemy was reported by residents at 30 killed and about the same number wounded. The enemy, having the advantage of a knowledge of the roads, while the cavalry were in this bend moved out across a plantation by a route 3 miles less than the main road, and escaped.

About 50 prisoners that were left with a small guard escaped in the woods, and the number of prisoners, therefore, was reduced to 9. Two wounded men, who were unable to be removed, were paroled by Major Mudd, Second Illinois Cavalry, and left at the house of Judge Dickenson; also 1 sick man and nurse. Their paroles I forward with this report.

The infantry halted at this place, which is 15 miles from our transports. They had marched that distance in an incredibly short time,

through a swamp about 3 miles wide, and forded a stream which was about 3½ feet deep. I pushed the cavalry forward 4 miles farther, but the enemy had crossed the stream and burned the bridge after them. At one time we had three caissons and 20 men, which had been captured by 7 men, under Adjutant Conover, of the Sixteenth Indiana, of whose gallantry I cannot speak too highly. When he was in advance of the command with this small force, he saw these wagons retreating in advance of the guns, and made a dash upon them, capturing the whole number, and held them until the enemy came up and drove him away with his shell. The prisoners nearly all escaped in the woods.

On the 24th instant, I returned to the transports, bringing with me all the cattle, mules, and horses that I could collect—about 200 mules, 100 head of cattle, and 25 horses, as near as I can approximate to the number captured without a statement from the quartermaster's department.

I found the citizens more willing to give up their negroes than their stock, especially horses and mules, and in nearly every instance they had attempted to hide them from us.

I found the country that I have been through abounding in corn, and where cotton had been burned it was where they were afraid of its falling into our hands. I saw in the vicinity of Greenville nearly 2,000 bales of cotton.

My command, consisting of the Sixteenth Indiana, Col. T. J. Lucas; Twenty-third Wisconsin, Col. J. J. Guppey; Ninety-sixth Ohio, Col. J. W. Vance; Sixty-seventh Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Buehler commanding; Eighty-third Ohio, Major [S. S.] L'Hommedieu, jr.; and Sixtieth Indiana, Captain Pleisch commanding; four pieces of the Seventeenth Ohio Battery, Lieut. James Rice, and the detachment of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, about 60 men of Captain Chambers' company, under Major Montgomery, making about 1,600 effective men.

It gives me pleasure to speak in the highest terms of the officers and men of my command. The infantry were always ready, and there was very little straggling. The cavalry that was with me on the expedition I can recommend as the most efficient body of men in that arm of the service that I have ever met with.

To Captain Sutherland, of the steam ram Monarch, I am indebted for many acts of courtesy in his official capacity. His ram was with my transports from the time we reached Greenville until our return, and I was by that means able to leave the boats with no guard, and take all the well men with me in whatever expedition I needed them.

I find that there are no road improvements in the country, and it is impossible for infantry to be effective against cavalry in such a country. Their information is always better than our own; the citizens all sympathize with them. The only force which can capture any of those rebel forces that fire into our transports is cavalry or mounted infantry, and light mountain howitzers. I believe that there is hardly 20 miles between this point and where I have been that they do not have their spies or pickets, and as the people assert that it is not their intention to fight, they can only be captured by a chase.

To Colonel Wright, Sixth Missouri Cavalry, who was with me during the whole of the expedition, my thanks are due for efficient service.

I am, with much respect, &c.,

S. G. BURBRIDGE,
Brigadier-General.

Lieut. J. HOUGH,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., Tenth Div., Thirteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.

Reports of Lieut. Col. S. W. Ferguson, C. S. Army, of skirmish (23d) at Fish Lake Bridge.

DEER CREEK, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI,
February 26, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that on Sunday morning, the 22d instant, the force of the enemy which had landed the Monday previous at the same point to capture my command, disembarked at Greenville. I was at the time encamped on Deer Creek, at the head of the road leading directly to Greenville, over Fish Lake, distant by this route 7½ miles from the river, and separated from it by Fish Lake and the upper portion of same stream, called Black Bayou. All the bridges over these had been destroyed, except one, and the roads guarded. The undestroyed bridge I used to cross pickets to the river; it was arranged for instant destruction, and held by a sufficient guard.

On the advance of their infantry to Fish Lake Bridge, on the morning of the 23d, I detailed one section of artillery to hold that point, which they did until recalled, when the enemy had obtained possession of the undestroyed bridge, the guard of which shamefully abandoned it at the distant approach of the enemy's cavalry. On learning this, I ordered the artillery to move down the creek, which protected their left flank, all the bridges in rear being destroyed. To the right was an open, level country, about a mile in width. They had started some ten or fifteen minutes, when the cavalry of the enemy appeared in the distance, advancing at full speed through the open country, in pursuit of some citizens and the guard which had abandoned the bridge they should have destroyed. I at once ordered Captain [James] Lewers, with all the cavalry present, consisting of the greater portion of his company, and 1 lieutenant and 3 privates of Captain [George] Barnes' company, to join the artillery at a gallop, and to support it.

Remaining some little time alone to observe the enemy, I started by a short cut through the fields to cut off my artillery and get them in a position I had previously selected. I had barely got into the road along which they were advancing when the whole cavalry command dashed up in full flight, officers and men mixed up together, throwing away their arms and all that impeded their flight. Not one shot had been fired. The enemy was in sight, but still half a mile distant, not more than 50 or at most 60 in number, and separated from them by a stout fence. I did all in my power to stop them, with the success one man might expect in a herd of stampeded cattle. Some 10 or 12 of the rear files did stop for perhaps one minute. I called on them to follow me, and started for the artillery, now, although utterly abandoned by every one, gallantly firing on the enemy. Not one man would follow me, but the panic-stricken cowards rejoined their worthy comrades at a rate which made up for lost time. Left alone, I endeavored to join my brave artillery, but was by this time completely cut off from them. Foiled in this, I determined to make another effort to rally the cavalry. Some 30 of them had run into a *cul-de-sac;* these I overtook, and pleaded with to follow me. Threats and entreaties were alike vain. Some dashed down the almost perpendicular sides of the creek and attempted to swim their horses; others jumped off their horses and swam for dear life. At last 9 of them promised to follow me, and with them I cut my way out, but, in doing so, unfortunately had to cross to the opposite side of the creek from the artillery. To reach this gallant band, I had

to make a long detour through the swamp. When I reached them it was to find that they had fought their way, step by step, for more than 6 miles, without the support of a single man, with the enemy's constantly increasing force of cavalry in front, flank, and rear of them, so that they would sometimes have to fire in three directions at once; that they had recaptured the entire baggage train of the command, as well as their caissons, which had been started on ahead at the first approach of the enemy; that they had compelled the enemy to abandon a number of prisoners, including their caisson drivers, and that they had brought off everything safely except two or three wagons, upset in the stampede. By burning the bridges behind them they arrested the pursuit of the cavalry.

I cannot praise too highly the cool and gallant conduct of this little band. In this hurried report much that is deserving of mention must be omitted. I crossed in a small flat all the artillery, &c., over Bogue Pheliah on the night of the 23d and the morning of the 24th, but was there in a position from which I could not retreat with wheels, and where I did not have two acres of dry ground for the whole command, so I procured three flats and one flat-boat; took possession of the steamer Emma Bett, which came up for corn, and got all wagons and artillery on board ready to move at a moment's notice, ordering the portion of the cavalry with me (23 in number) and the artillery horses and wagon teams across the swamp to the Sunflower River, at Klein's Ferry. On information, which seemed authentic, that the enemy were advancing on me, I started down the Bogue on the night of the 24th for Colonel Latham's plantation, on Sunflower. When everything was fairly and safely started, I left the boat, with orders after landing to go to Klein's for the animals, and rejoined the cavalry, still on Deer Creek, for important reasons. Finding that the enemy have gone off, I have sent to recall all my force to Deer Creek, but fear the execution of this may be delayed some time from the flood of water which has fallen since yesterday. I have sent a flag of truce to communicate with Capt. E. W. Sutherland, and will report more fully at the earliest practicable moment.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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NEAR GREENVILLE, WASHINGTON COUNTY,
February 28, 1863.

MAJOR: Your favor of 23d instant has just come to hand. I have to report that I am here with a small party waiting to communicate, by flag of truce, with the ram Monarch, instructions of the 20th instant direct from Lieutenant-General Pemberton. My future movements will depend in a great measure on the result of the desired interview.

In the mean time I am collecting scattered cavalry, and have ordered the artillery to camp on Deer Creek, near Colonel Falls', and recruit their exhausted animals. I am so continually in the saddle that I cannot prepare a careful report of the recent engagement. A very hurried one will accompany this.

As far as I can ascertain, my loss is 7 prisoners, 2 men wounded and

paroled by the enemy, 2 wagons burned, and a number of horses and arms abandoned by the cavalry in their flight.

The conduct of Captain Lewers and several of the lieutenants of cavalry will have to be investigated thoroughly, unless something is developed to cause me to change my mind. I shall arrest most of them as soon as practicable. Captain Lewers' company is, without exception, the poorest I have ever seen. I know of no way to remedy the evil but to break the company up entirely, transferring certain of the men to Captain Barnes and the rest to infantry companies. As cavalry they are not worth one day's support by the Confederate Government. Captain Lewers himself is in every respect inefficient and unfitted for his position, and I fear the same remark applies to all his officers. In sending me such a command, Colonel [Wirt] Adams risked my battery and the lives of brave men. He broke up two squadrons to make this detail, and then only sent one-half of one company (viz, of Captain Barnes), so that I have not even had the small force ordered by the lieutenant-general commanding.

There are many reasons for me to remain and defend this country, even with my handful of men. The principal one is the amount of corn in it, all of which may be transported to Vicksburg by boat, via Bogue Pheliah and the Sunflower. Another, the stores of Government cotton, which must otherwise be burned or fall into the hands of the enemy. Even now the Abolitionists are trying to get out all the cotton from the vicinity of Lake Washington. The citizens are afraid to burn it, and I have not a man I can spare for the purpose.

Knowing well that additional troops cannot be sent me, I would not be importunate in my demands, but only ask for soldiers in place of Captain Lewers' rabble, now partly disarmed and dismounted. Let me have Captain [G. T.] Blackburn's company, if within reach, or Captain [W. H.] Johnson's, both of my own regiment, and I will give a good account of them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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NEAR GREENVILLE, *February* 28, 1863.

MAJOR: I send two prisoners of war by Private B. P. Renfroe, of Company B, Adams' cavalry, an intelligent man, who, if you desire it, may give much information of things here. As the company lost much in their wagon destroyed by the enemy, it may be well to let him go where it was raised to procure clothing, &c., for it.

I mention for what it is worth that many Yankee officers on the fleet were overheard in conversation to say that the attack on Vicksburg would be made very soon; that they expected to silence the guns and land directly under them. This I would not deem worthy of mention were it not for the peculiar circumstances under which it was obtained. They also discussed an expected descent of a fleet of boats to procure cotton along the river, accompanied by a brigade of cavalry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General,

FEBRUARY 17–21, 1863.—Expedition from Lexington to Clifton, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. John K. Mizner, Third Michigan Cavalry, Chief of Cavalry, District of Jackson.

No. 2.—Capt. Frederick C. Adamson, Third Michigan Cavalry.

No. 1.

Report of Col. John K. Mizner, Third Michigan Cavalry, Chief of Cavalry, District of Jackson.

JACKSON, TENN., *February* 22, 1863.

CAPTAIN: To add to the pleasurable remembrances of the anniversary we have to-day celebrated, I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding, that the cavalry I sent toward the Tennessee River have succeeded in capturing Colonel [J. F.] Newsom, with 7 of his officers and 60 men, besides all their horses, arms, accouterments, &c., together with a large amount of supplies. This splendid achievement was accomplished by Capt. Cicero Newell, of the Third Michigan Cavalry, who, with 60 picked men, crossed the Tennessee River on the night of the 19th instant, and surprised and captured Newsom and his whole party at Clifton. He recrossed to this side with all his prisoners, when our gunboats came in sight, and gave them valuable assistance in discovering boats and small craft which the enemy had concealed and had continually used in crossing the river. Captain Adamson, Third Michigan Cavalry, was second in command, and he, as well as all of the officers and men, deserve the highest praise for capturing a force of the enemy exactly equal to their own.

I regret to inform you that Captain Newell was wounded in the action at Clifton.

I inclose Captain Adamson's report, which gives a full account of the affair.

The prisoners were turned over to Lieutenant Fitch, commanding gunboat fleet. Captain Newell, being disabled, was also taken on board the gunboat.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. K. MIZNER,
Colonel and Chief of Cavalry.

Capt. T. H. HARRIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, District of Jackson.

No. 2.

Report of Capt. Frederick C. Adamson, Third Michigan Cavalry.

LEXINGTON, TENN., *February* 21, 1863.

SIR: On behalf of Captain Newell, I would respectfully submit the following report of the operations of the detachment of cavalry under his command from the 17th instant until the present date:

On the 17th instant he started for Clifton, with 23 men of Company A, under Sergeant [Thomas] Dean; 14 men of Company L, under com-

mand of Lieutenant Leonardson; 24 men of Company K, under command of Lieutenant McIntyre; 23 of Company B, commanded by Captain Adamson (all of the above of the Third Michigan Cavalry), and 14 men of the Second Tennessee, commanded by Sergeant Mize.

We reached Johnson's house, 8 miles from Clifton, about sundown, without any adventure worth noting, having scouted the country thoroughly for some miles on either side of the road. At midnight our pickets sent in two Confederate soldiers, who had just crossed from Clifton, from whom we gained some valuable information in relation to the force at Clifton.

At daylight we started for the river, leaving a small party at Johnson's. We struck the enemy's pickets on the river bank, 2 miles from the point opposite Clifton. We then dashed down, hoping to capture the ferry. The pickets had evidently signaled their confederates on the opposite shore, as they greeted us with a volley. We got our horses under cover immediately, and, dismounting the men, led part of [Companies] A and K to the bank and returned their fire. The firing was continued on both sides for a short time, resulting in no damage to men, but wounding two of Company B's horses, which, we supposed, had been placed entirely out of danger. Captain Newell left his company to watch the enemy and cover our retreat. We then returned to Johnson's, where we found a conscript who had come in to surrender himself. From the information given by him, Captain Newell went with his company to Turnbull's Creek, leaving orders with me to proceed with the remainder of the command to Decaturville, and secure quarters for the men, &c.

The captain's scout resulted in the discovery of an old flat-boat, some 40 feet long and 10 wide. He immediately conceived the idea of crossing the river and making an attack on Clifton, and left Sergeant [Henry C.] Vowles and 6 men, with orders to make a pair of oars, bail out the boat, and take her down the river, under cover of the night, to a point 4 miles above Clifton, and there await our coming. He then joined me at Decaturville, where we decided, from the information collected, upon a plan of attack to be carried into effect that night. Information of the discovery of the boat having reached the citizens, through the indiscretion of some of Company K's men, we feared they might guess at our intention and prepare the rebels for our coming, so we announced our departure for Lexington, and started off on that road (leaving at 2 p. m.).

Getting out some 4 miles, we struck into the woods, under the guidance of Mr. Dow White; remained concealed in the woods until night, when we started for our boat, some 10 miles off; found everything all right. The river was very high and full of drift-wood, which the strong current drove along at fearful speed. It was now 12 m. We could not take all the men at once, and we knew, in the state of the river, that we could not make a second trip in time to carry out our plans. So we told off 60 men—22 from A, 10 from L, 14 from K, and 14 from B—under command of their respective officers, as before noted (Lieutenants Bingham and Drew accompanying their companies). We left the remainder of the men, under command of a sergeant, to take charge of our horses. We got our living freight aboard our crazy craft, the boat's gunwale being just 6 inches above water-mark, made the men lie flat in the bottom, crossed over, and drifted down about 2 miles; then landed, after considerable difficulty and danger, and wended our way through the woods for town. After marching some 2 miles through the brush along the river bank, we encountered a serious obstacle to our farther progress, in the shape of an extensive bayou, which we could not cross in any direction. Nothing

discouraged at our failure, we marched back to the boat, shoved off, and drifted down within half a mile of town, again landed, reconnoitered cautiously, marched within sight of town, found everything quiet, lay down on the ground, and sent our guide to a house to ascertain with exact certainty the strength and position of the enemy; found it just as we expected, and no more. We waited some two hours anxiously for the proper moment to arrive. The night was very dark and cold. Our men suffered considerably, having left their overcoats in the boat, but they bore it in silence, as not a murmur was heard among them.

Day just breaking, we crept cautiously into town, Company B in advance. Their only guard now espied us, and, calling "treason" at the top of his voice, started for the quarters. We soon secured him, sent a couple of men to their ferry, surrounded the houses, which we knew contained the men, dashing in the doors and windows, thrusting in our guns, and pointing them at the heads of the astonished, half-awake, and undressed occupants, demanding with loud shouts their instant surrender. Considerable resistance was shown in some of the buildings, but we bore down everything before us. Some thirty shots were fired; the second one, I am sorry to say, disabled Captain Newell, striking him in the leg, under the knee, making a painful, but not dangerous, flesh wound. Colonel Newsom had his right arm fearfully shattered and Lieutenant Shelby was struck in the shoulder, which were all the known casualties that occurred on both sides.

The command now devolving upon me, and the town being fully in our possession, I instantly mounted a few men, and [sent] them on the different roads to pick up runaways, and turned my immediate attention to getting the prisoners on the other side of the river, as I had reliable information that there was an Alabama regiment of cavalry camped at Ague Creek, only 7 miles east, and a strong force at Waynesborough, 17 miles distant. Some of our men left with the horses now made their appearance on the opposite bank, according to instructions, so I sent 50 over (in the ferry just captured) with a strong guard, commanded by Lieutenant Bingham, putting Captain Newell in the same boat; signaled our own boat, which the guard immediately brought down; loaded her with the rest of the prisoners, a party of our men, the captured saddles, guns, &c.

We plied both boats briskly for some time, carrying from four to six horses a trip. It was severe work, as the current would carry the boats a long distance down stream; consequently we had to haul them up along shore, so that they might reach the landing on the opposite side. In the mean time I had crossed over; and fearing the co-operation of the prisoners in case of an attack, I directed Lieutenant Drew to move them to Hughes' house, 2 miles distant. We were about getting over our last load of horses when we were most agreeably surprised by the appearance of a fleet of five gunboats. The Lexington, in advance, put out her guns, intending to shell us, but a cheer from this side and a white flag from the other checked her intention. Lieutenant Fitch, flag-officer of the fleet, gave our tired men a capital dinner, which they much needed, having eaten nothing since noon of the day before.

Before the arrival of the boats, I had ordered the firing of the buildings that had been occupied by the enemy, as they were well filled up with bunks, &c., and the hotel in which we found over 30 men contained a quantity of commissary stores, which I could not transport, so was compelled to destroy.

Our raid was entirely successful. The result was the capture of 8 commissioned officers and some 60 enlisted men, 40 splendid horses, some

saddles, about 40 stand of arms, principally old shot-guns, many of which we threw in the river, some Sharps' and Smith's carbines (four of the latter), a few Enfield rifles, several old muskets, flint-locks, &c., and a few Colt's pistols (how many I cannot ascertain, as the property has not yet been collected from the men). I regret to say that many of the old guns were carried off by the officers and men of the gunboats during my absence, as their men were all allowed to come ashore.

Captain Fitch offered to take the prisoners off our hands, and, upon consulting with Captain Newell, who had been moved to Hughes', he decided it would be best to get rid of them, as several were unable to ride, and I could not mount them all. I fear that I have erred in this matter, but did it for the best. The horses are distributed among the companies, subject to the order of the colonel commanding.

Having had information that Wright's Island contained several horses belonging to the Confederates, I took a small party on the gunboat and searched the island. The horses had been removed several days before, but we found two boats, one of which we destroyed; the other was one of Francis' metallic life-boats, which I also turned over to Captain Fitch.

It was now dusk, so we crossed in our old boat, which we had towed up, entirely destroyed it, and marched on foot to Johnson's, to which place I had ordered the command.

Early on the 21st, I started for Lexington, through a drenching rain; reached there at 3 p. m., and reported to Major [Thomas] Saylor, whom I found in command.

I am thoroughly satisfied that there is no force anywhere in this vicinity, on this side of the Tennessee River. Van Dorn is at Columbia; parties of his cavalry are stationed at different points, close to the river, and it seems to be the impression that it is his intention to attempt to hold the river at these points.

I inclose a list of the prisoners* and Captain Fitch's receipt for 54;* one of the slips containing their names was mislaid, which accounts for the difference between the list and receipt, and 4 were released on parole.

I must apologize for the length of this report, but in justice to the men and officers, who all, without exception, conducted themselves bravely on our rather dangerous expedition, I could not do less than tell the whole story.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. C. ADAMSON,
Captain Third Michigan Cavalry.

Capt. T. B. WEIR,
Adjutant Cavalry Division.

P. S.—Net result of expedition: Prisoners, 61; horses, 40; saddles, about 40; stand of arms, 40; flat-boats destroyed, 2; yawls destroyed, 2; skiffs destroyed, 2; life-boat found, 1; 4 barrels flour, 3 barrels salt, 10,000 pounds pork and bacon, a quantity of corn-meal, beans, &c., burned.

Colonel Newsom and Lieutenant [M. T.] Shelby were dangerously wounded and paroled.

I neglected to state that Captain Newell went on the gunboat Fairplay, as, owing to the state of the roads and the lack of transportation, we could not [take] him to a suitable place.

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* Omitted.

FEBRUARY 18, 1863.—Affair near Moscow, Tenn.

Report of Maj. Francis M. Long, Forty-first Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. FORTY-FIRST REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Moscow, Tenn., February 22, 1863.

SIR: On the morning of the 18th instant, I was detailed to take command of 160 men, comprised of details from the Third Iowa, Forty-first and Fifty-third Illinois, and Thirty-third Wisconsin, to escort a forage train that was going out after forage.

I reported at division headquarters at 8 a. m., and took command of the aforesaid guards, who had reported there. We started out in a northwest direction. After going 5½ or 6 miles, we stopped at the plantation of Colonel Nuckles and loaded our train.

While we were loading the train, I received information that 150 of [R. V.] Richardson's rebel cavalry had made their appearance about a mile west of us, and that they were moving in a southeast direction. I immediately ordered the guards in line, ready for action.

When our train was loaded, I placed half the guards in front and the remainder in the rear of the train. I took all necessary precautions to have the train move in good order, and we started for camp, moving unmolested until within 2½ or 3 miles of camp, when I discovered a body of rebel cavalry south of the road, about 150 strong, preparing to make a dash upon the train. I sent orders to the front guards to return with all possible speed, at the same time hurrying forward with the rear guards. In consequence of the bad condition of the roads, the train was somewhat scattered, and both the front and rear guards were from a half to three-fourths of a mile from the center of the train.

In the mean time the rebels had made their dash and attacked the train in the center; the front and rear guards coming up, engaged the enemy at the same time. The engagement lasted about five minutes, when the enemy were repulsed and in full retreat.

Our loss was 1 man wounded and 16 missing. We also lost 42 mules and 2 horses. Loss of the enemy unknown.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

F. M. LONG,
Major Forty-first Regiment Illinois Volunteers.

Lieut. WILLIAM WARNER,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Brigade, Fourth Division.

FEBRUARY 19, 1863.—Skirmish near Yazoo Pass, Miss.

Report of Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Vicksburg, February 22, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that a detachment of the First Indiana Cavalry, under Lieut. Col. W. F. Wood, engaged a detachment, or some 200, of Forrest's rebel cavalry on the 19th instant, near Yazoo Pass, killing 6, wounding 3, and capturing 15 of the enemy, and completely putting him to rout. No loss on our side. He also reports that

the prospect of opening the pass is encouraging, and that General Washburn expected to reach the Coldwater with his transports to-morrow.

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

FEBRUARY 24, 1863.—Capture of the Indianola.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana.
No. 2.—Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. Army, commanding District of Western Louisiana, with congratulatory orders.
No. 3.—Lieut. Col. Frederick B. Brand, Miles' (Louisiana) Legion.
No. 4.—Maj. J. L. Brent, C. S. Army.
No. 5.—Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army.
No. 6.—Col. Wirt Adams, Mississippi Cavalry.

No. 1.

Report of Lieut. Gen. J. C. Pemberton, C. S. Army, commanding Department of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana.

VICKSBURG, *February* 25, 1863.

Expedition, fitted up in Red River and Port Hudson, captured iron-clad gunboat Indianola at 11 o'clock last night; is now sunk in the Mississippi; shows bow and upper works out near Mr. Joe Davis' plantation; armament, two 11-inch forward, two 9-inch aft. Lieutenant Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding, with his officers and men, captured; will do everything possible to raise and get her afloat immediately. There will probably be an attempt by other iron-clads to run down past our batteries to-night. Maj. J. L. Brent, of General Taylor's forces, commanded the expedition.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

No. 2.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Richard Taylor, C. S. Army, commanding District of Western Louisiana, with congratulatory orders.

VICKSBURG, *February* 25, 1863.

I have the honor to report, after a severe and hot engagement, the capture of the Federal iron-clad steamer Indianola, Lieutenant-Commander Brown, U. S. Navy, together with all her officers and crew, by the Confederate States steamers Queen of the West and Webb, forming

* For reports of Actg. Rear-Admiral David D. Porter and Lieut. Commander George Brown, U. S. Navy, see Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

an expedition sent out by me for that purpose, under the command of Major [J. L.] Brent. The prize is a good deal damaged.

R. TAYLOR,
Major-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WESTERN LOUISIANA,
Alexandria, March 1, 1863.

GENERAL: I beg respectfully to add, in addition to the report of Maj. J. L. Brent, that the prize steamer Indianola was towed to a point where she sunk in shoal water with her gun decks above water. Her guns were traversed so as to bear, all of them, on the river, thus making her a powerful water-battery. Our boats then returned to this point for necessary repairs.

Very respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

R. TAYLOR,
Major-General.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 20. } HDQRS. DIST. OF WESTERN LOUISIANA,
Alexandria, April 2, 1863.

The major-general commanding takes pleasure, in behalf of the Government, in returning thanks to the detachment of Texas troops of Major [James] Burnet's command; of Tennessee troops of Capt. J. D. Thomas' command, and to the section of Maryland Light Artillery Battery, under command of Lieutenant [W. Thompson] Patten and Sergeant [Edward] Langley, for the valuable and gallant services rendered by them in the gunboat engagement with the United States steam ram Indianola. Their bravery and soldierly conduct entitle them to the gratitude of the nation and the highest appreciation of their countrymen, and should excite the just emulation of their comrades. The major-general commanding, in justice to themselves and his own feelings, cannot allow them to return to their commands in another department without making this public acknowledgment of their gallant and meritorious services.

By command of Major-General Taylor:

E. SURGET,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 3.

Reports of Lieut. Col. Frederick B. Brand, Miles' (Louisiana) Legion.

STEAMER DR. BEATY,
Thirty miles below Vicksburg, February 25, 1863.

SIR: Last night, about 10 p. m., fell in with the U. S. iron-clad gunboat Indianola, and after the rams Queen of the West and Webb, under Major Brent, had engaged her for an hour, I went alongside, when the commander, Lieutenant-Commander Brown, U. S. Navy, surrendered to

me. As all the credit is due to Major Brent, I have turned over to him, in a sinking condition, the prize, which we hope to save. Nobody but 5 hurt.

FREDK. B. BRAND,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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ON BOARD C. S. GUNBOAT DR. BEATY,
February 26, 1863.

SIR: On the morning of the 21st, while wooding at Morganzia, I received information that the Federal gunboat Indianola had left the mouth of Red River. I proceeded to the mouth of Red River; arrived at 3 p. m.; found a picket, with whom I established a code of signals for boats coming up the river. Ran up Red River as far as Black River, where I had to lie up until the fog cleared, which was about 8 a. m. on the 22d. Proceeded on up Red River; when within about 20 miles of the fortifications, I met Major [J. L.] Brent, in command of the ram Queen of the West and the Webb, with the Grand Era as tender. I turned back, and proceeded down the river in company with them to find the enemy and attack him at night, as I knew their immense superiority of metal and power.

Went on up the Mississippi River to within 30 miles of Vicksburg, near the little town of Carthage, where we discovered our adversary close in shore about 10 p. m. 24th instant. The Queen of the West and the Webb most gallantly charged upon her their first and second rams, doing but little damage. The third time they struck her; the Webb struck her at the back part of the starboard wheel-house, cutting down below the water into the hull, making also a large hole in her own bow. The Queen of the West made another gallant charge in the face of two 9-inch guns at her stern, for the purpose of crushing her propellers and rudders, which broke down the whole of her stern. Major Brent then gave me notice (I being within 300 yards) that she was disabled. I immediately rushed up to board her. On running alongside, I grappled her, and, on giving the order to board, Lieutenant Brown, U. S. Navy, commanding iron-clad gunboat Indianola, said he "was in a sinking condition." I asked if he surrendered. He replied, "I surrender." I then kept my boarders back, jumped on board myself, and received his sword. I then had her pushed into shore, where we found that they had cut all their pipes, and had blown the water and steam out of their boilers. I found her to be one of the most formidable iron-clads in their Navy, protected in every manner possible with thick heavy timber and heavy iron plates, mounting two 11-inch (completely casemated) Dahlgren guns forward, from which she had fired eleven shots at us. She had two 9-inch Dahlgren guns in her stern, from which she had fired six solid shots at us. Lieutenant Brown informs me that she would have been used as a ram had he thought we had the boldness to attack him at night.

Too much credit cannot be awarded to Major Brent and his command for the gallant manner in which they behaved. I therefore turned the prize over to him, to have her taken up Red River, where she could be repaired and fitted out. After towing her down as far as His Excellency President Davis' plantation, we found that she made so much water that we were compelled to run her ashore, where she now lies in 10 feet water. I dispatched the Queen of the West to Warrenton to communi-

cate to Major-General Stevenson, of Vicksburg, for assistance in the shape of pumps, &c.

I then started off in the Grand Era with the prisoners, numbering about 90, with 7 negroes; delivered them over to Col. Wirt Adams' command, to be forwarded to Jackson, Miss. On my return to join the squadron, met the Queen of the West, Webb, and the Dr. Beaty, in full retreat, having learned that the two gunboats expected by Lieutenant Brown, U. S. Navy, had passed Vicksburg, our rams leaking so much that it was impossible for us to make another attack. My port end was cut into by the Queen of the West by accident. I was obliged, in consequence, to leave about 70 bales of cotton on shore near where the Indianola has sunk.

The officers and men, one and all, deserve great praise for their coolness and the promptitude with which they executed all my commands, especially when I gave the order to board. I take pleasure in saying that I never saw men behave better under any circumstances.

The West had 2 killed and 3 wounded by a 11-inch shot striking her upper bulwarks. The Webb and Beaty had not a man hurt. The enemy had 1 killed and 1 wounded by our sharpshooters.

So well protected were the enemy by their iron, that our 20, 30, and 32 pounders made very little indentation at a distance of 10 or 15 yards.

Some 40 or 50 of my men were detailed to work on the Indianola, who are now on board the Webb, having gotten on her during the stampede; also Surgeon [Thad. J.] Wetherly, Lieutenant [S. M.] Thomas ([R. M.] Boone's battery), and Lieutenant Frith (Miles' Legion). Sergeant-Major King, with 15 men, was detailed to carry dispatches to Warrenton in a boat. He has not yet returned. The detachment of the signal corps with me rendered me very efficient service, some of whom were on board the West and Webb.

I remain, sir, your most obedient servant,

FREDK. B. BRAND,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Expedition.

Major-General GARDNER.

No. 4.

Report of Maj. J. L. Brent, C. S. Army.

FEBRUARY 25, 1863.

MAJOR: My last dispatch to you, exclusive of the telegraphic communication sent you last night, was from Natchez. The Federal iron-clad Indianola had forty-eight hours' start of us at Ackland's Landing; at Natchez she was less than twenty-five hours in advance.

We left Natchez on the evening of the 23d, and I found that we could easily overhaul the enemy in the morning of the 24th, but I determined not to do so, in order to bring him to an engagement at night, considering for many reasons that this time was eminently advantageous to us. We reached Grand Gulf before sunset, and there learned that he was only about four hours in advance of us. As we were running more than 2 miles to his 1, the time required to overtake him could easily be calculated; so I determined to overtake and bring him to action at 9 o'clock that evening. We came up with him about 9.40, just above New Carthage, near the foot of Palmyra Island, and I immediately signaled the

Webb to prepare for action. Our order of approach was as follows: The Queen of the West about 500 yards in advance of the Webb, and the Beaty, Lieutenant-Colonel [F. B.] Brand commanding (who, I wrote you, had joined us with a force and steamer fitted out from Port Hudson), 2 miles in the rear, and lashed to my tender, the Grand Era. The moon was partially obscured by a veil of white clouds, and gave and permitted just sufficient light for us to see where to strike with our rams, and just sufficient obscurity to render uncertain the aim of the formidable artillery of the enemy. We first discovered him when about 1,000 yards distant, hugging the eastern bank of the Mississippi, with his head quartering across and down the river. Not an indication of life was given as we dashed on toward him—no light, no perceptible motion of his machinery was discernible. We had also obscured every light, and only the fires of the Era could be seen, 2 miles back, where she was towing the Beaty. The distance between him and us had diminished to about 500 yards. We could clearly distinguish the long black line of his two coal-barges, which protected his sides from forward of his bow to nearly abreast of his wheels. The impatience of our men to open fire could be scarcely restrained, but I was too sensible of the vast advantage to be obtained by traversing the distance to be passed over without drawing the fire of his powerful guns. At last, when within about 150 yards of him, I authorized Captain [James] McCloskey to open fire, which he accordingly did with his two Parrott guns and one brass 12-pounder. At the second fire, the 20-pounder Parrott gun was disabled by the blowing out of its vent-piece. Our intention was to dash the bow of our boat in his larboard wheel-house, just in the rear of the coal-barge, but when about 150 yards from him he backed and interposed the barge between us and him. Our bow went crashing clear through the barge, and was not arrested until it shattered some of his timbers amidships and deeply indenting the iron plating of his hull. So tremendous had been the momentum of our attack, that for nearly five minutes we could not disengage ourselves, but remained stuck fast. In this position our sharpshooters opened fire on every light and crevice that could be seen, but no living men were to be seen on the enemy's decks. While thus adhering to the enemy, the Webb came dashing by us, and plunged, with terrific force, just in the rear of his bow. Some few iron plates were loosened, but this blow of the Webb produced no serious external injury to the enemy. The prisoners since report that it disabled, by the jar, the starboard engine. Urged forward by the Webb, the Indianola swung away. One end of the coal-barge that the Queen had cut in two sunk, and the other drifted down the current a little way, and immediately sunk, and the Queen, finding herself free, immediately rounded up stream to add to the impetuosity of her next charge the additional power obtainable from the descending current of the river. As the Webb approached on her first charge, the two 11-inch Dahlgren guns on the bow of the Indianola opened on her at 75 yards with solid shot, but fortunately she was untouched. The vigor of her onset pushed the enemy around, and, carrying her forward, laid her across and under the very muzzle of these monstrous guns. Dashing safely around from this perilous position, the Webb swung on the starboard side of the enemy, between him and his coal-barge, breaking the fastenings and setting the barge adrift.

The result of our first onset was to strip the Indianola of her coal-barges, which protected her sides, and to injure her to some extent in her wheel, as was apparent from her subsequent want of rapidity and precision in her movements. As soon as the Webb swept away clear

of the enemy, the Queen of the West swung round and again dashed upon him, who this time with partial success endeavored to break the force of the onset by presenting her bow to our blow; but his movements were too torpid, and were not entirely successful, which tends to confirm the belief entertained by some that her machinery was injured by the first blow. The Queen struck a little in advance of amidships, but, as she was turning, the force of the blow glanced along his side and past his wheel-house without inflicting any very serious damage. Just as the Queen swung clear of his stern, he opened on her with his two aft 9-inch guns. One struck us on the shoulder and knocked off our cotton, and one on the starboard and knocked away ten or twelve bales of cotton, causing us to list over considerably; and another (a shell) entered our front port-hole on the port side, passed out, and struck the chase of a brass 12-pounder gun, and exploded, killing 2 men, disabling 4, and disabling two pieces. This time the Queen swung around rapidly up the stream, and in a very brief interval again dashed on him, striking a little to the rear of his starboard wheel-house, crushing through and shattering his frame work and loosening some of his iron plates.

By this time the Webb had run up stream, turned and came careering on with a full head of steam, and struck him very nearly in the same place where the Queen of the West had before hit him. Through and through his timbers, crushing and dashing aside his iron plates, the sharp bow of the Webb penetrated as if it were going to pass entirely through the ship. As the Webb backed clear, the Indianola, with all the speed she could raise, declined further fight, and ran down the river toward the bank, with the intention, as afterward appeared, of getting a line out, in order that the officers and crew might land and abandon their steamer, which was making water rapidly. In fact, a line was got out on land, but not fastened, and three of the crew effected their escape from the vessel, but were recaptured next day by the cavalry of Major [Isaac F.] Harrison. After the Queen of the West struck the Indianola the third time, she was for some time almost unmanageable. She had listed so much over to the port side, that one of her wheels was much the most raised out of the water. She was making water, and presented every appearance of sinking. Captain McCloskey righted her a little by throwing over cotton from his upper decks, and they were able to bring her round very slowly, but still she was brought up by her gallant commander for a further charge. While the Webb had her bow knocked off, her splendid machinery was unhurt, and she quickly and gallantly bore up for her third charge. When bearing down and approaching the enemy, Captain [Charles J.] Pierce reports that he was hailed from the deck, announcing the surrender, and begging to be towed ashore, as he was sinking. Captain Pierce represents that he placed a line on board and commenced towing the Indianola, when the line parted. As the Queen of the West was running off from her last charge to make a circuit to obtain space to add increased momentum to her onset, we encountered the Dr. Beaty (Lieutenant-Colonel Brand), who had cast off from the tender Grand Era, and was hovering round to enter the fight when an opportunity offered.

The Dr. Beaty is a frail steamer, with but little power, and incapable of being used as a ram, or of resisting the terrible fire to which we were exposed. She was crowded with nearly 250 gallant spirits, who volunteered from the forces at Port Hudson, and who had embarked in the Beaty with the resolution to fight the enemy by boarding her. We called out to them that the opportunity for boarding her had arrived, as it was apparent that the enemy was disabled and much demoralized.

Lieutenant-Colonel Brand with his command gallantly bore away, approached the enemy, and gave, as I am informed by him, the command "prepare to board," when he was greeted by a voice from the decks of the Indianola, announcing that she had surrendered and was in a sinking condition. Colonel Brand then boarded her upper deck and received the sword of Lieutenant-Commander Brown. This result must have been very gratifying to Colonel Brand, as it was obtained without the loss or injury of a single man of his command. Upon my reaching the deck, Colonel Brand most handsomely acknowledged that the capture was entirely due to the Queen of the West and the Webb. I have no doubt if it had been necessary that himself and his gallant command would have again demonstrated that nothing can resist the desperation of troops who regard not their own lives, but victory. I immediately appointed Lieutenant Handy, of the Webb, as prize-master. We found our prize a most formidable monster, mounting two 11-inch guns forward and two 9-inch guns aft, and all protected by splendid iron casemates, utterly impervious except to the heaviest artillery at the very shortest range. Her propelling power consisted of side-wheels and two screw propellers. She was filled with a most valuable cargo, embracing supplies of every kind. The officers and crew, amounting to over 100, fell into our hands as prisoners. Nothing shows more clearly how well protected were her men than the fact that our artillery, though they frequently fired at the range of 20 and 30 yards, utterly failed to injure her. Lieutenant Handy, of the Webb, fired his 32-pounder rifled gun so close to the casemates of the enemy that it actually enveloped both port-holes in flames, and yet no injury was sustained. Our skillful and courageous sharpshooters fired deliberately at every onset.

Notwithstanding all these circumstances, the enemy lost but 1 man killed and none wounded. The Webb had but 1 man wounded, while the Queen of the West had 2 killed and 4 wounded.

The fire of the enemy was terrific. Their huge shot and shell came whizzing by us, directed wide of the mark in every instance, except the two shots that struck the Queen and one that passed through the bulwarks of the Webb, while the far-darting flames of their enormous guns almost licking our bows, and the loud thunder of their reports (heard as far as Vicksburg, 30 miles off), added unusual sublimity to the scene. The Queen of the West has some appearance of protection for her men—how feeble was manifested by the injury inflicted by one shot alone; but the men on the Webb were utterly without protection. The boilers were rudely surrounded by cotton, but her walking beams were entirely exposed. I think the annals of naval warfare may be safely challenged to produce an instance where a feeble craft was thrice precipitated upon the iron sides of a first-class war steamer, mounting as heavy an armament as is to be found in the western waters.

The heroic gallantry of both captains in rushing their steamers against the iron-clad enemy in face of and against the muzzles of 9-inch and 11-inch guns cannot be overestimated.

I am much indebted for the success that crowns this expedition to the skill and gallantry of my officers.

Captain McCloskey, commanding the Queen of the West, combined with the courage of the soldier the skill and aptitude that characterizes the sailor of our western waters. Taking his position in the front of the steamer, by word and example he cheered the men on to their duty and rallied them when disheartened. I reserve to him the mention of the names of the officers and men under him who merit special mention, but I feel compelled in one case to specify an example of heroic courage

and skill as exhibited by Sergt. Edward Langley, of the Third Maryland Artillery. He had on the Queen a detachment of 13 men of his artillery, and was placed in charge of the two Parrott guns. He himself took command of the 30-pounder gun in our bow, where he remained during the action, neither he nor his gallant comrades ever leaving their posts for a moment. While our bows were resting against the side of the Indianola, he still manned and fired his gun, though he and his men were without the least covering or protection. In addition to this courage, the skill and judgment he showed in maneuvering his piece, mounted on wheels within a most contracted space, is deserving of equal commendation.

Lieutenant [T. H.] Handy, of the Crescent Artillery, commanded the troops on the Webb. He exhibited the greatest skill and courage in handling his command, and he himself in person manned and pointed his rifled 32-pounder gun. His report will disclose the names of such officers and men as merit special mention.

I learn from verbal report that Lieutenant [H. A.] Rice, of the Twenty-first [Thirty-first] Tennessee, on board of the Webb, served most efficiently and gallantly.

Acting Lieutenant Prather served his two field pieces, entirely unprotected, with most unshrinking courage, and was ably seconded by Mr. Charles Scholer, acting as captain of the guns.

Capt. Charles J. Pierce, a civilian, commanded and controlled the movements of the Webb. It was he who selected the weak spots of the enemy, and with a steady hand and eye dashed the Webb against the Indianola.

Not only did the officers do their duty, but I have nothing but commendation for the private soldiers. Captain [E E.] Carnes' and Lieutenant Rice's company, of the Twenty-first [Thirty-first] Tennessee, and the detachment of Lieutenant [R. S.] Dulin, adjutant of Major [James] Burnet's battalion of Texans, were in the expedition of the Queen and Webb, and under fire they, as well as their gallant officers, comported themselves with courage and discipline.

On taking possession, we found our prize rapidly making water, which we could not arrest. Seeing that she would sink, I did not wish that this should take place on the western side of the river, and therefore made fast to her with two of the steamers, and towed her over the river, when she sank in the water up to her gun deck, thus losing to us the greater part of the valuable stores that were in her hold.

Captain [James W.] Mangum, assistant adjutant-general of Brigadier-General [J. C.] Moore, being in Alexandria, accompanied the expedition as a volunteer and acted as my adjutant. He comported himself gallantly under fire, and throughout the expedition rendered me valuable service.

I herewith submit the report of Captain McCloskey,* of the Queen of the West. He mentions favorably Captain Carnes and Lieutenant [Henry] Miller, of the Twenty-first [Thirty-first] Tennessee Volunteers; Lieutenant [R. S.] Dulin, adjutant of Major Burnet's battalion of Texans, and Capt. T. H. Hutton, chief of artillery; Sergt. Edward Langley, acting as lieutenant in charge of the two Parrott guns and the volunteers; Capt. C. H. White, slightly wounded, acting with great efficiency as ordnance officer; Captain Tank, Lieutenant Fisk, Lieut. C. Stanmyer, and Lieut. K. R. Hyams, quartermaster and commissary, who exhibited much energy. Lieutenants Stanmyer and Fisk were wounded at their pieces while gallantly acting as captains of artillery.

* Not found.

As I was on board the Queen during the action, the conduct of these gentlemen was under my own eye, and I cheerfully indorse the commendation of Captain McCloskey. Captain McCloskey also speaks highly of the intrepid promptness and skill of Pilots Z. Milligan, W. Melloy, Frank Fittrell, and N. Dunbar. Also of the engineers (Messrs. J. R. Allyboy, E. Woods, J. Crawford, P. Montrose, and G. W. Daniel) and of the mate, Mr. W. H. Parker. Though the gentlemen were civilians, yet knowing that the boat was well and skillfully handled, I have thought it a matter of justice to approve the indorsement of Captain McCloskey. He also speaks approvingly of the conduct of Assistant Surgeon Blanchard, who manifested much care and coolness, coming on the gun deck in the midst of the action and personally supervising the removal of the wounded.

Sergeant Magruder, of the Signal Corps, also deserves mention for having rendered very important services in the discharge of the responsible duties devolved upon him.

Captain Pierce, of the Webb, reports to me verbally that his pilots (Mr. Norman White, mate, and the Messrs. Elijah Trene, Frank Smith, Charles Oakey, and O. S. Burdett), and chief engineer (Hugh Derby) and the assistant engineers (George Marsh, Richard Stockton, J. E. Conklin, and William Kuvish) behaved themselves with the utmost gallantry and bravery, and discharged their duties with promptness and ability. I have no doubt this is correct, from the skillful manner in which the Webb was handled while she was in action.

I am, major, yours, respectfully,

J. L. BRENT,
Major, Commanding Expedition.

Maj. E. SURGET,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WESTERN LOUISIANA,
Alexandria, March 1, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded.

No more gallant feat has illustrated the war. Maj. J. L. Brent is my chief of ordnance. Capt. James McCloskey is post quartermaster at this point. Mr. Charles [J.] Pierce is a Red River pilot. The expedition was fitted out by me with the utmost dispatch to destroy the Indianola before the enemy could pass another boat by Vicksburg or cut off our communication. Both the Queen and the Webb returned here much shattered by their terrible conflict. I shall use every effort to repair them at once and meet the enemy.

R. TAYLOR,
Major-General, Commanding.

No. 5.

Report of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army.

VICKSBURG, *March* 4, 1863.

The Indianola is not destroyed. We are at work to raise her. One 11-inch was burst; the others are not injured. The Grand Era is sent by Taylor to claim it. I have possession, and will hold it. I will send

Paul Jones to her as soon as possible. Have dispatched to Gardner for a part of the fleet. The report of the gunboats passing Vicksburg has run the whole fleet up Red River. The boat was a coal-barge which was taken by Major [Isaac F.] Harrison. I ask to keep the Navy prisoners until Admiral Porter withdraws his instructions.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

No. 6.

Report of Col. Wirt Adams, Mississippi Cavalry.

MARCH 1, 1863.

MAJOR: I believe I am now in possession of all the facts relative to the capture and destruction of the Federal steamer Indianola. From the moment the Federal flag was struck and our forces took possession of the vessel, there appears to have been an utter want of authority, system, or plan. The vessel was towed or drifted down several miles, making water rapidly in her hold; not so much from injuries received as from four plug holes, opened by the Federal commander for the purpose of scuttling her. She lodged in the front of Mr. Joe Davis' place.

The following morning (Wednesday), a detail was made of about 100 men, under command of a lieutenant, to go on board the prize and try and save her. They were furnished with two 6-pounder field pieces and about fifteen muskets or rifles. Meantime the Queen of the West was sent to Warrenton with dispatches and as a picket for the fleet. In a short time the Queen of the West came back in great haste, reporting a gunboat of the enemy approaching. All the vessels at once got under way in a panic, and proceeded down the river, abandoning without a word the working party and field pieces on the wreck. The Federal vessel did not approach nearer than 2½ miles, and appeared very apprehensive of attack. The position of the Indianola was such that her two 11-inch Dahlgren guns commanded the river above, and the two 9-inch guns could also have been brought in battery. With the assistance of our two vessels, the Queen of the West and Webb, there is scarcely a doubt that we could have saved the Indianola, and possibly have captured the other gunboat of the enemy. Major [Isaac F.] Harrison's command, nearly opposite, tendered their assistance.

The lieutenant commanding the working party made some effort to free the vessel of water, but finding himself abandoned by our fleet, and the enemy's gunboat lying above him, he on Thursday night burst three of the valuable guns on board, spiked the other, threw his field pieces overboard, blew up the vessel, and fled with his command. Many of them wandered about Palmyra Island, on which they were, and about 25 are supposed to have been captured by the crew of the last Federal gunboat. The others have been straggling into my camp for two or three days. With the exception of the wine and liquor stores of the Indianola, nothing was saved. The valuable armament, the large supplies of powder, shot, and shell are all lost.

I shall to-day send Lieutenant-Colonel [Robert C.] Wood, jr., with one squadron across Big Black, instructed to approach the wreck, if he possibly can from this side, drive off any Federals who may be lurk-

ing about it, and recover, if practicable, the two field pieces. There are bayous intervening, which may prevent his approaching the wreck.

* * * * * * *

I remain, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WIRT ADAMS,

Colonel, Commanding Cavalry Regiment.

Maj. J. J. REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

FEBRUARY 24–APRIL 8, 1863.—The Yazoo Pass Expedition (by Moon Lake, Yazoo Pass, and the Coldwater and Tallahatchee Rivers), including engagements (March 11, 13, and 16, and April 2 and 4) at Fort Pemberton, near Greenwood, Miss.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Lieut. Col. James H. Wilson, Assistant Inspector-General, U. S. Army, Chief of Topographical Engineers, Army of the Tennessee, of operations February 1–April 9.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Benjamin M. Prentiss, U. S. Army, commanding District of Eastern Arkansas.

No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Leonard F. Ross, U. S. Army, commanding Thirteenth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, of operations March 2–April 8.

No. 4.—Brig. Gen. Frederick Salomon, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

No. 5.—Brig. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, U. S. Army, of preliminary operations.

No. 6.—Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 7.—Brig. Gen. Isaac F. Quinby, U. S. Army, commanding Seventh Division, of operations March 9–28.

No. 8.—Lieut. Commander Watson Smith, U. S. Navy.

No. 9.—Maj. Gen. William W. Loring, C. S. Army, commanding at Fort Pemberton, etc., of operations February 17–April 11.

No. 10.—Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, C. S. Army, commanding division, etc., of operations April 1–10.

No. 11.—Capt. Isaac N. Brown, C. S. Navy.

No. 1.

Reports of Lieut. Col. James H. Wilson, Assistant Inspector-General, U. S. Army, Chief of Topographical Engineers, Army of the Tennessee, of operations February 1–April 9.

YAZOO PASS, MISS., *February* 2, 1863—8 p. m.

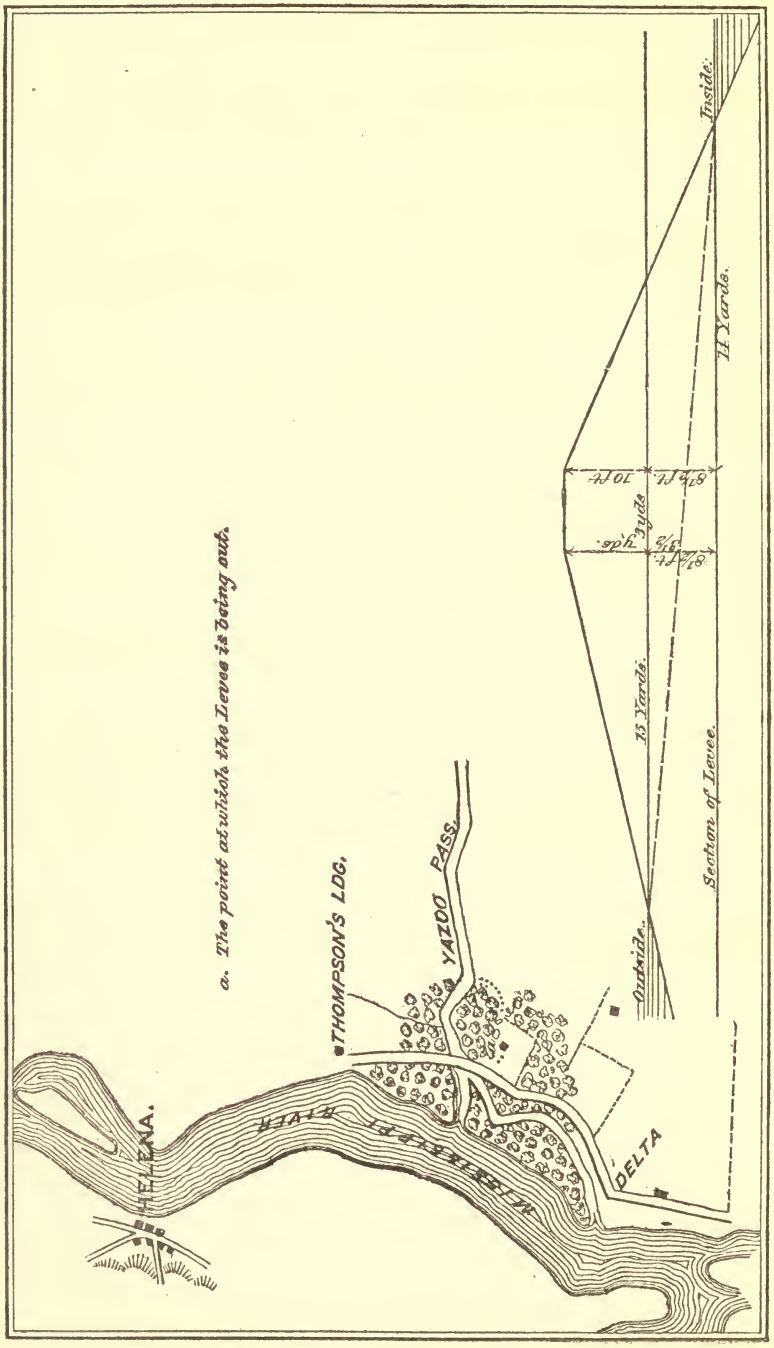
COLONEL: We reached Helena last night, and had all arrangements complete to start from there this morning at 10 o'clock. General Gorman accompanied me, sending under my command 500 men, provided with two days' rations, and implements complete for the necessary labor. He returned to Helena this evening, and will send down all the provisions, tents, &c., needed.

I arrived at the levee across the Pass about noon, and found a much more favorable state of affairs than I at first anticipated. The stream looks quite navigable, and I am sure will allow the boats now here to navigate it without difficulty. I had the men at work cutting the embankment by 2 o'clock, and by to-morrow night will have a water-way 20 yards wide cut. The difference of level between the water outside and inside of the levee is 8½ feet.

The steamers Henderson and Hamilton came in the Pass this after-

noon, landed against the embankment, and turned about without difficulty, and went back into the Mississippi.

The following rough sketch will convey an idea of the state of affairs here at present:



From the above you will perceive that there are two entrances into the Pass; the lower one is the one formerly used, but the upper is the one through which our boats passed to-day, and is the best. You will also perceive that the levee is a very heavy one, and, therefore, will require a good deal of work to cut through; but from the fact that there is 8½ feet difference of level between the water inside and out, once opened, the *crevasse* will enlarge very rapidly. The back country both north and south of the pass is partially overflowed by water from *crevasses* in the levee. I think boats can go through our cut in three days. The undertaking promises fine results.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Chief Topographical Engineer.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
A. A. G., Hdqrs. Dept. of the Tenn., near Vicksburg, Miss.

—

YAZOO PASS, MISS., *February* 4, 1863—8 a. m.

COLONEL: The Pass is open, and a river 75 or 80 yards wide is running through it with the greatest velocity. I wrote you on the evening of the 2d that by the next (yesterday) evening the water would be let through.

About 7 o'clock, after discharging a mine in the mouth of the cut, the water rushed. The channel was only about 5 feet at first, though the embankment was cut through in two places, with an interval of about 20 feet between them, the cut through which the water was first started being considerably the larger.

By 11 p. m. the opening was 40 yards wide, and the water pouring through like nothing else I ever saw except Niagara Falls. Logs, trees, and great masses of earth were torn away with the greatest ease. The work is a perfect success.

The pilots and the captain of the gunboat Forest Rose think it will not be safe to undertake to run through the Pass for four or five days, on account of the great rapidity and fall of the water. It will take several days to fill up the country so much as to slacken the current.

A prominent rebel living near Helena, General Alcorn, says there will be no difficulty whatever in reaching the Yazoo River with boats of medium size.

Captain Brown will go in with the gunboat at the very earliest moment the passage becomes practicable.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Assistant Inspector-General, &c.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Asst. Adjt. Gen. and Chief of Staff, Hdqrs. Dept. of the Tenn.

—

HELENA, ARK., *February* 9, 1863—6 p. m.

GENERAL: Your note of the 7th instant is just received by the steamer Emma.

I have been waiting all day for a boat to return to Vicksburg, in order to report in person the condition of affairs in Yazoo Pass; but as an expedition has already been arranged, and you gave me permission to accompany it, I shall go back to the Pass in the morning.

After the levee had been cut, the pilots thought it unsafe to undertake an entrance for several days. The gunboat Forest Rose, needing repairs, plank, &c., ran up to Memphis, returned, and, on the morning of the 7th, we ran down and entered the Pass with great ease. About a mile inside of the levee we struck Moon Lake, ran down it about 5 miles, to the point where the Pass leaves it, and from that point I proceeded to make further examinations. I was somewhat disappointed to find the stream neither so large nor straight as it is nearer the river. I went in it about 3 miles in an open boat, but found no obstruction of a serious nature. However, we found three men who had just come through in a dug-out from the Tallahatchee, ostensibly for supplies of salt, &c. They said that the people at the mouth of Coldwater had discovered what had been done at the levee, and that a force of rebels (some 30 or 40), with about 100 negroes, had been engaged for several days in felling timber across the stream at intervals between its junction with the Coldwater and a point nearly 5 miles from Moon Lake.

The next day (yesterday), after waiting till noon for a small steamer that I had expected the day before, I went in again with Captain [G. W.] Brown's cutter and crew, and descended the Pass nearly 6 miles. During this trip we took 2 men who had belonged to a company of partisan cavalry. They spoke of the rebels having been there in small force, engaged in cutting timber, but said they had left the evening before.

I saw, perhaps, at different points, forty trees that had been cut so as to fall in the stream, but in no place had it obstructed the channel so as to resist or prevent the passage of boats. At three places some drift timber had collected against standing trees, so as to contract the waterway, but a few hours' work would open it so as to make the passage easy. The timber, or, at least, all that I saw, which had been cut into the water, had either sunk out of sight or been drifted against the shore so as to hurt nothing. From this fact, and the opinion of boatmen accustomed to small streams, I am inclined to think that, although many more trees may have been cut lower down, and at points opposite each other, they will not materially interfere with navigation. The stream is only about 100 feet wide (but very deep), and, as the timber overhangs it in many places, it will be necessary to cut out considerable in order to prevent the smoke-stacks of the steamers from being knocked down. This will be a more tedious operation than usual, from the fact that, in many places, the banks of the stream are under water; but, with all these difficulties, no one here entertains a doubt of our being able to work through.

General Gorman sent General Washburn down yesterday with 1,000 men and sent 500 more this morning. They have begun operations. I shall go down myself early in the morning and push matters as rapidly as possible.

Before I left there the ferry-boat Luella, about 100 feet long, had gone into the Pass nearly 3 miles, turned about, and returned.

Information of no very reliable character has reached General Gorman to the effect that the rebels were aware of our movements, and were making arrangements for our reception. Where or how is not known.

I have been thus minute in my statement so that you could see exactly how the matter stands.

I am quite sure that no material advantages in the way of a surprise can be obtained, unless our expedition gets through within five or six days. I see nothing, however, except the non-arrival of the gunboats

to prevent this, unless, indeed, the obstructions in the other end of the Pass are more serious than we now think.

Should the river fall again 8 or 10 feet, there is not the possibility of a doubt that Yazoo Pass can be opened to admit a large class of boats, and after the Coldwater is reached there are no obstacles of any kind, and very little chance of interposing any, until you arrive at Yazoo City; there is a bluff there, and the next high land is at Haynes' Bluff.

I shall accompany the Yazoo expedition unless you direct otherwise.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
First Lieutenant Topographical Engineers, Lieut. Col., &c.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee.

P. S.—It is called 12 miles from Moon Lake to the junction of the Pass with the Coldwater, and, therefore, there is only 6 or 7 miles yet unexplored; certainly 2 miles of which are no more difficult than what I have explored already. I will keep you informed of our progress.

—

IN YAZOO PASS, 14 MILES FROM THE MISSISSIPPI,
February 12, 1863—8 p. m.

COLONEL: In my letter of the 9th to the general, I informed him of the fact that, although eminently successful in opening the levee across the Pass, as well as fortunate in finding it naturally a stream entirely capable of navigation, the rebels had discovered our operations time enough to obstruct the channel by felling trees across and into it.

On the morning of the 10th, I joined General Washburn over a mile from Moon Lake, inside the Pass. Since then, with three days' constant work, we have made somewhat more than 5 miles, having passed and removed two somewhat considerable obstructions of fallen and drifted timber. Just in front of us there is another about a half mile long, in which many of the trees reach entirely across the stream. Some of them, cottonwoods and sycamores, are 4 feet through at the butt, and will weigh 35 tons. To add to the difficulty of removing them, the country near the stream is overflowed; nowhere is there more than a mere strip of land next the bank, and that only a few inches out of the water; but, with all these things against us, there is no doubt of our ability to remove the obstructions, and make the Pass navigable for the largest boats that pass through the Louisville Canal. We have brought three steamers with us all the way, two of which, the Mattie Cook and Luella, have been turned about, and run to and from Helena. Our greatest difficulty so far has been to obtain tackle strong enough to resist the strains brought upon it; but by to-morrow noon we expect to have new 6-inch cables. With these we shall be able to lift the heaviest logs. By sawing in two the larger trees, removing such parts as will not sink, and taking out the smaller trees entirely, we can remove all the obstructions in time. The narrowness and rapidity of the streams require everything to be taken out that will not float off or sink.

I learned to-day what I previously suspected, that rebel sympathizers in Helena, through some means or other, obtained information, and communicated to their friends the nature of our operations at the levee the day we began. At all events, it is certain that while we were en-

gaged in opening the Pass at one end the rebels were closing it at the other.

We are now about 7 miles from Moon Lake, and by the meanderings of the stream the same distance from the Coldwater, though the map shows both distances scarcely 6 miles. It will take from seven to ten days, possibly longer, to reach the end of our work.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Topographical Engineers.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
A. A. G. and Chief of Staff, Hdqrs. Dept. of the Tennessee.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., February 16, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded to the Headquarters of the Army, Washington, for the information of the General-in-Chief. There is a force now diligently at work clearing out Yazoo Pass, and four light-draught gunboats (one iron-clad) with the party. I am also sending an additional division of infantry, with a few pieces of artillery, without horses, to accompany the expedition. If successful, they will clear out the Yazoo and all tributaries of all vessels that can do us any injury, saving them for the Government, if possible, or as many of them as possible. The first attempt will be to ascend the Yalabusha to Grenada and destroy the railroad bridges there. The force now at Grenada is not large.

U. S. GRANT,
Major-General.

HELENA, ARK., *February* 24, 1863.

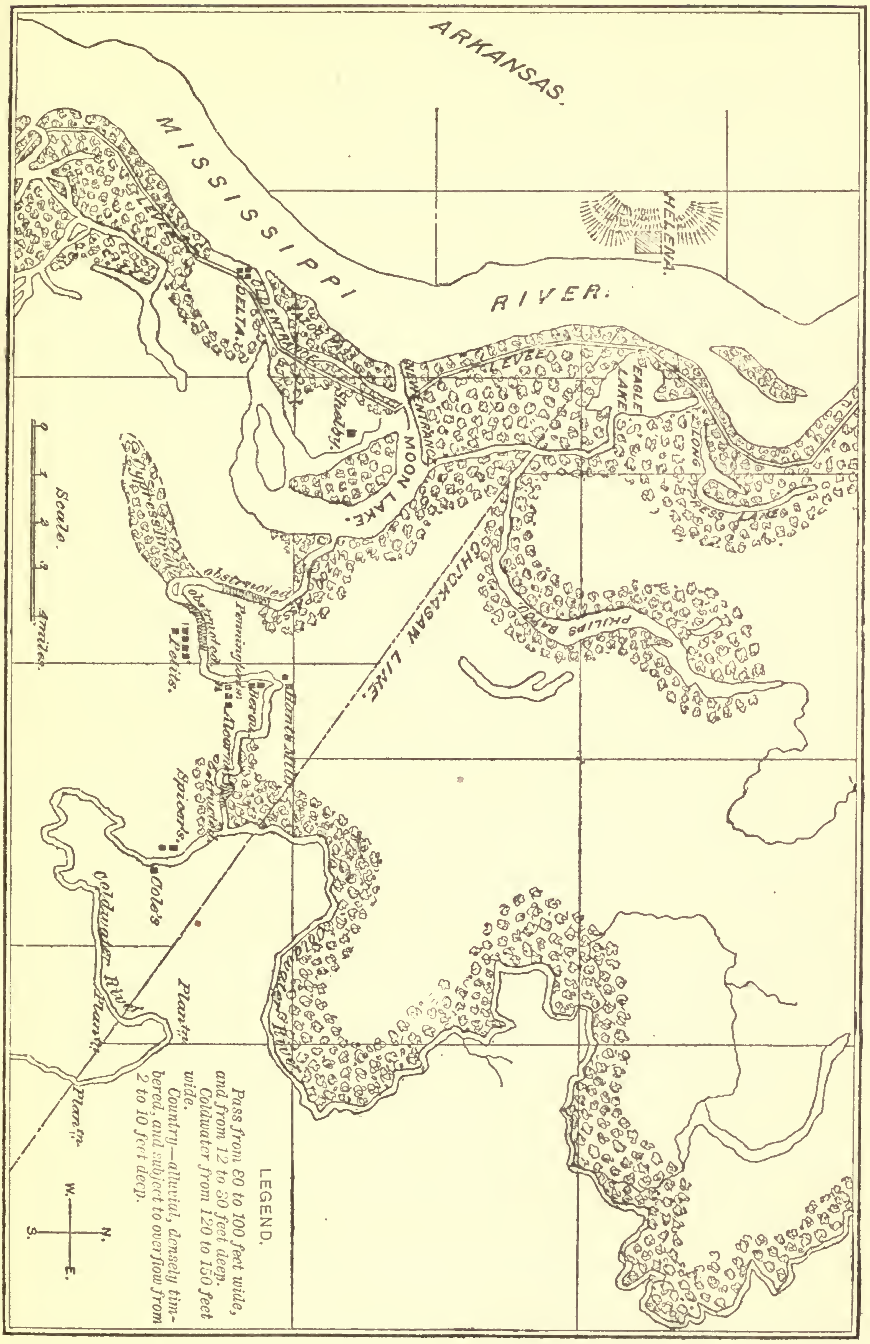
SIR: I have to report, for the information of the major-general commanding, that Yazoo Pass is now open for navigation.

The levee at the entrance was cut on the 3d instant, with comparatively little difficulty, and by the 7th the rush of water through the *crevasse* had so subsided that the U. S. gunboat Forest Rose, Capt. George W. Brown, entered as far as the exit of the Pass from Moon Lake. About this time it was fully ascertained that the rebels had obstructed the stream by felling heavy trees into and across it.

On the 8th, fresh troops, under the command of General Washburn, arrived at Moon Lake, and began the removal of the blockades. By the evening of the 21st, the work was accomplished, and at 5 p. m. of the 22d the steamers Henderson and Mattie Cook, with one regiment of troops on board, entered the Coldwater River and descended it 2½ miles, to Cole's plantation. On the 23d, they went down from 10 to 12 miles farther, through some of the shortest bends, and returned the same day to Hunt's Mill, on the Pass.

I am confirmed in the opinions expressed in my previous reports concerning the practicability of this route, during proper stages of water, as a line of military operations. In navigating Yazoo Pass some difficulty will be experienced from limbs of overhanging trees, not removed because of the impossibility of cutting them down without letting the whole tree fall into the channel. Should the water fall 4 or 5 feet, this could be easily obviated by cutting and pulling inland the trees now partly in the way.

The Coldwater is a considerable stream after its junction with the


ARKANSAS.
MISSISSIPPI RIVER.
HELENA.
LEVEE
DELTA.
Shelby.
MOON LAKE.
EAGLE LAKE
CHICKASAW LINE.
PHILIPS BAYOU
obstructed
Coldwater River
Cole's
Plant'n.
Scale.
miles.
LEGEND.
Pass from 80 to 100 feet wide, and from 12 to 30 feet deep.
Coldwater from 120 to 150 feet wide.
Country—alluvial, densely timbered, and subject to overflow from 2 to 10 feet deep.
W.
N.
E.
S.

Pass—from 120 to 150 feet in width inside of its banks; is now quite full, rising slowly, and is easily navigable for any boat that can work its way through the Pass. Like the latter, it might be improved by cutting off more of the overhanging trees, though it is not essential in either case. It would simply facilitate the navigation.

In the present condition of affairs, I think boats 180 feet in length, and of any proportional beam and draught of water, can be sent from the Mississippi to the Tallahatchee by this route in four days, possibly in less time, with good management. The period for which this route can be used will depend entirely upon the stage of water in the Mississippi, the shallowest part being on the bar, over which boats are compelled to pass in order to reach the entrance.

In submitting this report of the work assigned me, it would be unjust not to call attention to the difficulties encountered and the arduous labor performed by the troops in overcoming them. With the exception of the secondary ridges, some distance from the stream, and occasional strips of land, from 20 to 50 feet wide, close to it, the entire country was overflowed, so that communication was nearly impossible, and the work could only be done by small parties, beginning at the upper end and working toward the Coldwater. In no case were more than 500 men employed, and frequently not half that number. The obstructions were found at intervals, all along the Pass, from a point 4 miles from Moon Lake to a point near the Coldwater, the principal one being a mile long, and composed of the heaviest trees, cut from both sides of the stream, so as to lie across and upon each other. Various plans were tried for removing them, all attended with the breakage of cables and boat machinery, but finally, by cutting, sawing, and pulling out upon the banks entire trees, the way was opened. The labor was so severe, and the exposure so great, that it was found necessary to relieve the troops several times by fresh regiments from Helena.

Brigadier-General Washburn, who was in actual command of the forces employed, after leaving Moon Lake will doubtless report concerning them; but I take the liberty of commending the zeal and intelligence of Lieut. George [G.] Murdock, of the Sixteenth Ohio Battery; Captain Whipple, of the Thirty-third Iowa, and Colonel Cameron, of the Thirty-fourth Indiana. They rendered valuable assistance (Lieutenant Murdock from the lake to the Coldwater) in directing and prosecuting the work.

The steamer Henderson, under the efficient command of Capt. A. Lamont, rendered invaluable service. Her cordage and light upper work were considerably broken; it would, therefore, be no more than justice to put her in repair at the public expense.

Inclosed herewith I hand a sketch* of the Pass and adjacent country.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieut. Col., U. S. Army, and Chief Topographical Engineer.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

DR. CURTISS' PLANTATION,
Near Greenwood, Miss., March 13, 1863—9 p. m.

GENERAL: The land and naval forces constituting the Yazoo expedition, after many provoking delays, arrived at this point on the morning

* See p. 377.

of the 11th, and after a reconnaissance of the fort and a slight engagement between the Chillicothe and one of its heavy guns, the troops were landed.

The Chillicothe, on the afternoon of the 11th, from a position near the one indicated on the inclosed sketch,* opened her batteries upon the enemy, but in a very short time received a rifle shot in her left port, killing and wounding 14 of her crew.

On the night of the 11th, a cotton-bale battery was erected at the point marked, about 700 yards from the large gun, with a view to dismounting it, if possible. Having no siege guns, a naval 30-pounder battery was placed in it.

On the 12th, the naval forces not being ready to attack, nothing was done, but on that night (last) another 30-pounder was added to the battery; and this morning, at 10, it and the Chillicothe, Baron De Kalb, and the mortar-boat began the attack, but to-night we are not able to perceive any advantage gained.

Last night the enemy erected heavy traverses against our Parrott battery, so that it could do him no serious damage to-day.

The rebel position is a strong one by virtue of the difficulties of approach, though it is defended by only two guns of any weight, one a powerful rifle, 6.4-inch bore. General Tilghman is in command. General Loring was there, but recently relieved. How many troops he has we cannot ascertain.

The Chillicothe has not stood the work well; that, too, at 1,100 yards. What may be the result at close range must depend entirely upon chance. I understand Commander Smith intends to go close up to-morrow, though I don't think he or his commanders are very sanguine.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *Commanding Department of the Tennessee.*

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MARCH 13, [1863]—11 p. m.

DEAR RAWLINS: I've just written a hasty note to the general; please apologize for its meager character. I've now been two days and entire nights without sleep, and am almost dead. The mail boat goes early to-morrow, so I can't give details; but my next will compensate.

I'm disgusted with 7, 9, 10, and 11 inch guns; to let one 6½-inch rifle stop our Navy. Bah! They ought to go up to 200 yards and "make a spoon or spoil a horn." They are to attack to-morrow, but may not do much. I have no hope of anything great, considering the course followed by the naval forces under direction of their able and efficient Acting Rear-Admiral, Commodore, Captain, Lieutenant-Commander Smith. One chance shot will do the work; we may not make it in a thousand. No more troops are needed here till Greenwood is taken. I think we have troops enough to whip all the rebels in this vicinity if we can only get by the fort. One good gunboat can do the work, and no doubt; the two here are no great shakes.

We are stopped now certain. Ross has done all in his power to urge this thing forward. If what he suggested had been adopted, the ironclads would have been here fifteen days ago and found no battery of any importance. So much for speed.

Very truly, your friend,

J. H. WILSON.

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* Not found.

HEADQUARTERS YAZOO EXPEDITION,
Five miles from Greenwood, March 15, 1863—9 p. m.

MY DEAR RAWLINS: We are no nearer Greenwood than when I wrote you night before last. We didn't attack yesterday, because the gunboats had not finished their repairs, and put it off to-day out of respect for the Sabbath; but to-morrow it is arranged to try it again, though I am not over-sanguine of success, since I can see a disposition on the part of the Navy to keep from a close and desperate engagement. I've talked with them all and tried to give them backbone, but they are not confident. Smith, you doubtless have understood by this time, I don't regard as the equal of Lord Nelson. Walker and Foster, of the De Kalb and Chillicothe, are good men, and will cheerfully do what they are ordered, but both think of Commodore Smith just as I do. I don't hesitate to say that, although the rebels got ahead of us in obstructing the Pass, and thereby kept us back ten days, and although we were furnished with miserable old transports and a new element of delay introduced, Commodore Smith is entirely responsible for the detention at this point and the consequent failure of the expedition, and responsible for no other reason than his timid and slow movements. When the iron-clads started into the Pass, I urged with all the force I could the absolute necessity of sending them, the rams, and two mosquitoes forward with all possible dispatch. Both Foster and Walker and General Ross agreed with this plan. Had this been done, they could have reached the mouth of the Tallahatchee in four days, I think, and even less. I'll bet my life I could have brought them to this point in three days; but grant that it would have required five days, that would have brought them to this place on the 1st of March, two whole weeks ago, at which time no heavy guns were here. The rifle did not arrive till about ten days ago. This we have from reliable authority.

I haven't time to tell you all the details of our operations here; but in the gunboat engagements they have suffered pretty heavily from the effects of the heavy rifle. At the distance of 1,100 yards the shots from this gun have battered and hammered the armored crafts sadly; they have not penetrated, but come so near that there is no fun in it. The Chillicothe is an inglorious failure; the wooden backing to her armor is of only 9-inch pine, and shivers into pieces every time the plating is struck; her bolt-work flies off at a terrible rate. If she is hit half as many times to-morrow at close range as she has been at long, she'll be in a sad condition. The De Kalb stands it well as long as she is square to the front, though her sides do not fare so well. Add to all this, these gentlemen have ammunition for only two hours' fighting.

I have erected a battery on shore only 700 yards from the rebel fort, and have two 30-pounder Parrotts and one 8-inch ship gun in position to assist the Navy, but have only an average of 50 or 60 rounds for them. In addition to this, it is intended to embark one brigade on the light-draught gunboats, and in case the rebel batteries are silenced, they will be landed at the fort to assault it and attack the rebel infantry if it should stand.

The latter part of the programme cannot be carried out unless the battery is completely disabled, so that we can run down and break up the raft that lies just above the fort.

The old steamship Star of the West is sunk just below the raft, across the stream, and they have the John Walsh close to the same place, either ready to sink or use as a boarding craft and ram. We have captured several prisoners, but can learn nothing of the rebel force,

nothing definite at least. Loring, Tilghman, Colonel Waul of the Texas Legion, the Second Texas, Forty-sixth and Twentieth Mississippi are all the troops we have heard of. The Second Texas left Vicksburg on the 15th of February, went to Jackson, marched thence to Yazoo City, and came from there by steamer. They are doubtless fortifying Yazoo City strongly.

If we should succeed to-morrow in capturing their fort, and all depends upon the determination and distance, we may succeed in capturing a large number of prisoners.

The rebel fort called Greenwood and Pemberton is constructed of cotton bales covered over with sand and earth, and in itself would be very valuable.

Colonel, I have written you freely upon all that concerns this expedition, and wish you to preserve my letters. They are semi-official, and I believe in no case will you find a misstatement of facts or an error in judgment stated in them. I should have directed them to the general, perhaps, but upon deliberation thought I could write with more freedom to you, and subserve the same purpose.

There is yet one matter to which I wish to call your attention, and that is, notwithstanding your wish that I should have been consulted, and the general's letter to General Prentiss directing the same thing, in no case and in no regard was my opinion solicited, either explicitly or implicitly, directly or indirectly. With reference to the organization of the expedition, I knew, as I told you, absolutely nothing of it until I returned to Moon Lake. Since we have been on the move, General Ross has consulted me freely upon all matters.

From all this you will see I am solicitous for my reputation at headquarters. I would not have you or any one else imagine I have stood upon *punctilio* in matters that concern the public welfare; but, to the contrary, I have not hesitated to tender my opinion upon a single occasion where I thought it worthy of attention, even to the naval authorities. The only case in which I regret my own negligence or want of foresight was in not advising General Gorman to send a heavy detachment down the Pass to Coldwater before we began operations at the levee, in order to prevent interference with it. I was thrown off my guard by the appearance of the country, giving confirmation to the report of the people that the whole country was flooded from back water and *crevasses*. Every appearance indicated this to be so. The fact is it was so nearly everywhere, and the trees had to be cut by men standing in boats. We might have prevented this, and might not. Even if we had, the expedition would not have been expedited by it, for as it was, it did not get ready to enter until a couple of days after we had returned to Helena. The transports were not ready until two or three days after. But suppose they had been, and the trees had not been cut, the rebels, instead of depending upon the obstructions and difficulties of navigation to detain us, would have begun at once to fortify at Greenwood.

As the thing stands now, without two or three good iron-clads are sent very soon, together with a siege train of six or eight 8-inch howitzers and 30-pounder rifles, or unless fortune should favor us to-morrow, the game is blocked on us here as well as below.

Should it turn out this way, Vicksburg becomes subordinate, our department secondary, and Rosecrans' army our hope in the West. Won't we, in that event, be required to furnish 50,000 or 60,000 men?

Before closing this letter, it may not be improper to mention the fact that the rebels are making great calculations "to bag us" entire. As

long as we are here that's out of the question, and only becomes practicable when they have rammed our iron-clads, or carried them by boarding. It is said that they have a battalion of volunteers from the different Mississippi regiments, commanded by Todd, selected for their prowess, and to be used as boarders. We can receive such gentlemen with bloody hands.

What has become of Casey and my horse? Remember me to Bowers and Osband. Say to the latter, if he moves his horses from Memphis, to please make arrangements concerning my mare.

I wrote you hastily a few evenings ago, and referred to my brother of the Eighteenth. I wish I could show you the testimonials and recommendations he has received, since his court-martial, from Haynie, Sullivan, Brayman, Lawler, and his lieutenant-colonel (who preferred the charges against him and has been at enmity with him), urging his promotion to the majority of the Eighteenth. He has twice received this promotion, and twice had it withdrawn in favor of political aspirants. He ought to have it now, and if you can do anything for him I wish you would.

Remember me kindly to the general, and say I will write again when the result of to-morrow's attack is known.

I believe I explained the difficulty of land operations here, arising from the high water. Nearly the whole country is under water. There is no way of our reaching the fort except by landing against it with our boats, after the guns are silent and the raft destroyed.

Write me about affairs below and the prospect. Your letter of the latest date was very interesting. Accept my grateful acknowledgments of the kind sentiments manifested toward me, and believe me, dear Rawlins, very truly, your friend,

J. H. WILSON.

HEADQUARTERS YAZOO EXPEDITION,
Curtiss' Plantation, 5 miles north of Greenwood, March 16, 1863.

GENERAL: I wrote to you hurriedly a few days ago, and to Colonel Rawlins quite fully last night.

I am sorry to say we are no nearer the accomplishment of our object to-night than we were yesterday. In accordance with the arrangement between General Ross and the commodore, we had placed an 8-inch shell gun in battery with our Parrott last night, and were ready at daylight to make the final effort. General Ross selected the three best regiments of his command, and embarked them on three of the light-clad gunboats, ready to throw them ashore at the battery, provided the heavy guns of the enemy should be silenced and the raft broken, so as to permit a landing.

About noon our battery opened and was vigorously replied to by some rifled field pieces from two little batteries, erected on the bank of the Yazoo, 300 or 400 yards below the fort last night. Our 8-inch gun was well handled, but having only the muzzle of their heavy gun to fire at, could not have effected much without great good fortune. Then, too, the rebels were supplied with plenty of cotton bales, which they used judiciously in covering their piece. In a few minutes after the land battery opened, the Chillicothe, followed by the De Kalb, moved out with the intention of "going in" upon the well-established principle of gunboat warfare, "close quarters and quick work," but the former had hardly reached her old position, 1,100 yards from the fort, before she was struck

with great violence several times, and in fifteen minutes, during which her two guns were fired only seven times, she was struck six times with solid 8-inch shot and the rifled 6.4-inch gun, resulting in closing "hermetically" both ports, so that neither could be opened till they were lifted off and hammered out. The De Kalb, for the reason that the Chillicothe was compelled to retire, was also drawn out. The fire from our land battery was kept up till night, and with so much effect that I am convinced the two boats assisting it would have had a better chance than at any previous time. I urged that the De Kalb alone should try it at close quarters, but it was not done. Our sharpshooters were pushed out through the overflow, to a point only 450 yards distant from the rebel batteries, and succeeded in annoying their gunners very greatly.

The rebel 8-inch gun was mounted and placed in position last night, and a few more days of such policy as we have been compelled to adopt by the tardy unreadiness of the naval commander will enable them to make Fort Greenwood entirely efficient against any force that can operate against it from this quarter. It has already shown considerable power in resisting gunboats and battering them. The Chillicothe has been under its fire five times, varying from fifteen minutes to an hour and a quarter, during which she has been hit fifty-two times, and I don't hesitate to say is now almost incapable of further active service. In the first place, she is a great cheat and swindle upon the Government. Her plating is laid against a backing of only 9 inches of pine wood, and fastened on by 6-inch spikes shaped thus: ▷═══⟹ instead of bolts with taps and screws. The framing which supports the plating is broken short near the middle of the two ports, and has settled down so that the grating over the top has to be propped up in order that the steering-wheel may be turned. Another 8-inch solid shot between the ports will bring the whole turret down.

If we had the guns and materials, and a good supply of ammunition, with another division of troops, we might be able to erect counter batteries on this and the left bank of the Tallahatchee River sufficiently strong to silence the rebel guns everywhere else but at the positions of the two pointing up the river, and, by means of raft and boat bridges, throw our troops upon the point in rear, or beyond the present line of rebel works. But with the troops now here, without siege materials of any kind, it is impossible to do anything without the gunboats first silencing the large guns. Remember, the enemy is in an isolated position, unapproachable by land, and no way for transports to reach him except by the river, directly in front of his heavy guns. We can get within about 450 yards of their works, or different parts of them, on both banks of the Tallahatchee, and at one place on the left bank can approach nearly opposite their camps; but it seems to me, without a direct approach to the front, no serious damage can be done them, for they can traverse their guns from oblique fire easily, and still command the river. However, I am perfectly certain the place can be taken in time, by a proper and prompt array of strength, and all the necessary materials for such an operation. I have no confidence in the snap or activity of the present naval commander in this quarter, and don't hesitate to say I regard him entirely responsible for the failure to take this place without a fight. His juniors, Captains Foster and Walker, I believe will bear me out in this. They both agreed with me in the policy to be pursued, and both attribute our failure to its neglect. There is no doubt but that, with all the difficulties we encountered, the iron-clads could have been here by the 1st instant. There is just as little doubt

that we would have found this point unprepared for resistance. Before adopting the policy of concentrating a heavy force here, there are one or two points to be regarded.

First, the confluence of the Yalabusha and the Tallahatchee is a position of considerable importance, as being the key to a large area of rich country, at the head of a river capable of easy navigation for large steamers, while to approach it we are compelled to thread several streams, with more or less difficulties of navigation to overcome. Without the gunboats could of themselves silence and destroy the rebel batteries at once, we should be compelled to adopt the slow and tedious process of a siege, under no very favorable circumstances—a siege, with the object of silencing and destroying their guns in the first place, and, in the second, to cross the river in such force as to expel the rebels from the point, and hold it ourselves till the obstacles to navigation could be removed. I don't undertake to say how many days this would require, but it is quite clear that as the matter now stands it would require several weeks. A fall of 10 feet in the Mississippi would probably prevent the return of our transports and naval vessels. There would then remain the necessity of going out by the Yazoo or of burning the boats. A contingency of this kind could be prevented by beginning the operation with the understanding that it should be abandoned when the river had fallen a certain amount. There is yet one other point in the enemy's favor. He can move guns up the railroad to Panola, and float them down to the mouth of Coldwater, and, unless that point is vigilantly guarded, can erect a strong battery there. I have suggested that a regiment of troops and one "tin-clad" be left or sent to that point as soon as possible. There is also a great chance yet for us. If the water rises 4 feet more here, it will flood almost the entire country, so much of it, at any rate, that the rebels cannot occupy their present position. To induce this rise, I have advised General Ross to write to General Prentiss, requesting him to put a strong force at work destroying the levee near the entrance to the Pass. The general's letter will go out by the naval dispatch boat that leaves in the morning. If the river is still as high as it was at the last dates we had, an opening even a half mile wide near the entrance will let in an immense volume of water, but whether enough to produce the desired effect is the problem to be solved. It's worth trying, I think.

We had 1 man wounded in the land battery to-day. A 6-pounder rifle shot came in at the embrasure, traversed a cotton bale from end to end, and took off his arm. Several of our men have been wounded in different skirmishes, and have taken several prisoners.

You will please remember, general, that I am not responsible for the defects in the organization of this expedition, neither directly nor indirectly, for although you were good enough to direct General Prentiss to answer my suggestions and "requisitions for troops and materials" as coming from yourself, I received no notice of this till furnished with a copy by Colonel Rawlins, and in no way was I consulted by any one in authority.

I don't mention this with a desire to convince you that the result would have been otherwise had I been consulted, but simply to assure you that the land forces would not have been entirely without siege materials and guns suitable for any ordinary operations.

In relation to the activity displayed by the expedition, I wish to be clearly understood. I have written Colonel Rawlins quite fully from time to time concerning the causes of delay. I frequently, from the day the expedition left Moon Lake, urged that the rams, iron-clads, and

two light-clads, but certainly the rams and iron-clads, should be pushed forward with the greatest possible speed, leaving the transports and balance of naval vessels to come forward as rapidly as they could. I went so far as to obtrude my opinions upon Acting Commodore Smith, urging that, for the main objects of the expedition, the troops were an incumbrance, and could only assist by occupying important points after they had been taken possession of. But notwithstanding General Ross insisted on this in more than one interview, it was not assented to. It was with the greatest difficulty that we could persuade him to put his coal-barges behind and allow the expedition to steam a little faster than the stream would float them.

I believe I have given you quite as full an account of matters here as I can in a letter.

Our offensive operations are suspended till more ammunition can be obtained, the gunboats wishing to hold some on hand for defense.

I don't know what course General Ross and Commodore Smith will now adopt, but it is the intention to wait on the defensive till we can determine something better.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, &c.

Major-General GRANT,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

HEADQUARTERS YAZOO EXPEDITION,
U. S. TRANSPORT VOLUNTEER,
Near Fort Greenwood, Miss., March 18, 1863—10 p. m.

DEAR RAWLINS: Military and naval operations here are about terminated for the present. His Excellency Acting Rear-Admiral Commodore Smith left to-day for a more salubrious climate, very sick, giving it as his opinion that the present force of iron-clads could not take the two rebel guns in our front. Captain Foster, the next in rank, has assumed command, and insists on withdrawing his force. General Ross assented at first, but has since determined to delay here till General Quinby arrives to assume the responsibility of attempting to reduce the rebel work or of withdrawing the land forces.

I am satisfied there is but one right way to take the fort, and that is for the gunboats to go right at it and hammer it till they take it. A deserter came in this morning, confirming in every particular the justice of my view. He says there were no heavy guns mounted here till the 10th or 12th of this month; that a heavy force is collecting at Yazoo City, and that they are building a tremendous raft there, upon which they keep constantly employed 1,000 men. They are also building one gunboat a mile below the city, 300 feet long, but for want of material it will require twenty-four months to finish. With this exception they have neither gunboat nor ram anywhere on these waters.

General Loring is in command in our front; don't know his force, but heard some one say over 3,000 men. Captains [Isaac N.] Brown and [F. E.] Shepperd, of the rebel Navy, have charge of the two large guns over in the fort, and when we made our attack on Monday they had but a very limited supply of ammunition. The rifle 6.4 was, in fact, silenced for want of projectiles. The Chillicothe drew out early, and Smith wouldn't let the De Kalb go down to press the matter. The deserter

says there is no possibility of a doubt that we should have captured the battery had our gunboats continued in action. Night before last they received a small supply of rifle shot, and on Sunday night they received and mounted the 8-inch gun which threw solid shot at us on Monday.

We have thrown away a magnificent chance to injure the enemy, and all because of the culpable and inexcusable slowness of the naval commander in the first place, and his timidity and cautiousness in the second.

The matter rests just this way now: If Admiral Porter can send three good iron-clads, well supplied with ammunition, say, 400 rounds for each gun, and a good man to fight them, they can yet capture the place. If he can't do so, it is childish folly to keep the present force here, thereby causing the enemy to strengthen his position and allowing him an opportunity to bag our entire force. Twenty thousand men would be safe here, and, supplied with a liberal allowance of siege material, might so damage the enemy as to require him to evacuate; but if the land forces are required to stop at every point of importance, and reduce it by a siege, how long do you think it will require them to reach Yazoo City?

It's provoking beyond measure to think that everything we undertake must be marred by incompetency and stupidity! I am intensely disgusted to-night.

In case of our withdrawal entirely or partially, I shall avail myself of the first opportunity to return to Vicksburg or to headquarters to see you and the general.

It seems to me the principal advantages of this line have already been lost, and what remain derive their importance from the fact that the gunboats, by being vigorously handled, ought to open us a rapid and safe line of communication, at least to Yazoo City. If the gunboats can't do this work, the venture fails, at least so far as concerns its advantages. An army in time can go through unassisted, but I would not like to be answerable for all the time consumed, nor for the success of the army afterward.

I have just finished dismantling our land battery and removing the guns to the landing. This was thought best, since we were nearly out of ammunition for them, and to save the labor of guarding the battery.

I can't begin to give you an idea of my disgust.

Write me soon, and in the mean time believe me, dear Rawlins, very truly, your friend,

J. H. WILSON.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Milliken's Bend., La., April 9, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report, for the information of the Engineer Department:

On the 29th of January, while at the mouth of the Yazoo River, I received verbal instructions from Major-General Grant to proceed at once to Helena, Ark., and organize an expedition for opening and examining the Yazoo Pass. Brigadier-General Gorman, commanding District of Eastern Arkansas, was directed to furnish all necessary details, boats and implements. I was instructed to cut the levee across the mouth of the Pass, and descend at least as far as the Coldwater, if practicable; return as soon as possible, and report upon the practicability of the route as a line of military operations.

At 2 p. m. on the 2d of February, with 400 men, furnished with

shovels, axes, and picks, I began work. The levee was cut in two places, the cuts being respectively 15 and 20 feet wide on top, with an interval of 50 feet between them, the wider one being directly in the axis of the old channel.

On the evening of the 3d, at 6 o'clock, the excavation was completed, and the water let in by the explosion of a small mine planted in the mouth of the cut. A mine was exploded under the mass of earth between the two cuts, simultaneously shattering and loosening it so that the rapid rush of water which ensued soon carried it entirely away, uniting the two cuts into one. By 11 p. m., a *crevasse* 40 yards wide was opened, and by morning the old entrance of the Pass was entirely clear of the embankment. The level of the water on the exterior side of the levee was 10 feet below the top of the embankment; on the inside, 18½ feet below; difference of level, 8½ feet. The water was 15 feet deep in the bed of the stream at the foot of the exterior slope. The width of the levee on the top was 10 feet; exterior slope, 4 upon 1; interior slope, 3½ upon 1. From the violence with which the water rushed through the *crevasse*, the steamboat pilots did not consider it safe to run a boat into it till the lake and the country in the vicinity were filled up.

On the 7th of March, with the steamer Henderson, I entered the Pass, through Moon Lake, to the exit from the latter. Before going farther, I was informed by some citizens from Coldwater that the rebels had been busily engaged, since about the 2d, in felling trees into and across the stream. I subsequently learned that General Pemberton had given orders two months before, and had reiterated them about two weeks before I reached Helena, directing the obstruction of Yazoo Pass. A party had been organized for this purpose before I began operations, and began work immediately after they learned the levee was cut.

On the 8th, I descended the stream nearly 6 miles in an open boat, but, not thinking it prudent to go farther without a larger escort, I did not learn the entire extent of the obstacles. I was, however, confirmed in the opinion expressed in my report of the 2d, informing General Grant of the suitability of the route as a line of operations against the country on the left bank of the Yazoo River.

On the 9th, General Washburn, with three small steamers and two regiments of infantry, provided with axes, cables, and implements, arrived from Helena, and entered the Pass 2 or 3 miles without meeting any serious blockades.

On the 10th, after a careful examination of the obstructions and their probable extent, with the steamboats and two regiments of infantry, under the command of Brigadier-General Washburn, the work of removing the obstructions was begun.

The first barricade was a mile in length, and the second about 2 miles, but not so compactly constructed, though slighter obstructions were found all along the Pass from Pennington's to within a mile of Coldwater. They were formed by felling trees into and across the stream. The forest being very dense, and the growth luxuriant, the trees were of the largest and heaviest kinds, cottonwood, sycamore, oak, elm, and pecan prevailing, and all, except cottonwood, having a greater specific gravity than water. These, mixed with drift-wood, rendered the barricade of no trifling nature, and, under ordinary circumstances, would have required great labor to remove. To add to the difficulties of the work, the rapid rise of the water from the *crevasse* at the entrance overflowed the entire country, except a very narrow strip of land next the bank, not to exceed in any place 50 yards wide, and frequently not half that. The working parties were kept necessarily on board the boats.

There being no way of reaching the lower end of the Pass with troops and the necessary provision and implements, the work had to be done from the upper end and the "blockades" removed successively. After resorting to the use of windlasses and other machinery for removing the fallen trees and drift timber, all attended with the breakage of cables, tackle, and boat machinery, besides being entirely too slow, the plan of cutting off the limbs, sawing in two the logs, and drawing out such parts as would not sink entirely out of the way was adopted.

In many cases where a footing could be obtained, entire trees, measuring 90 feet in length and 4 feet through the butt, were drawn out by attaching two or three 6-inch cables and hauling upon them with from 250 to 400 men. In this way, by the 21st instant, the entire Pass was cleared, and, with the cutting of an occasional overhanging tree, prepared for navigation.

The width of the waterway is from 60 to 80 feet clear, and from 18 to 30 feet deep at the stage of water indicated. The distance from Moon Lake to the Coldwater is about 15 miles.

The Coldwater from its junction with Yazoo Pass is a considerable river, from 100 to 130 feet wide, running through a dense wilderness nearly all the way.

The Tallahatchee is a stream of very similar nature, from 130 to 180 feet wide, and from 30 miles below the mouth of Coldwater affords fine navigation for boats 250 feet long.

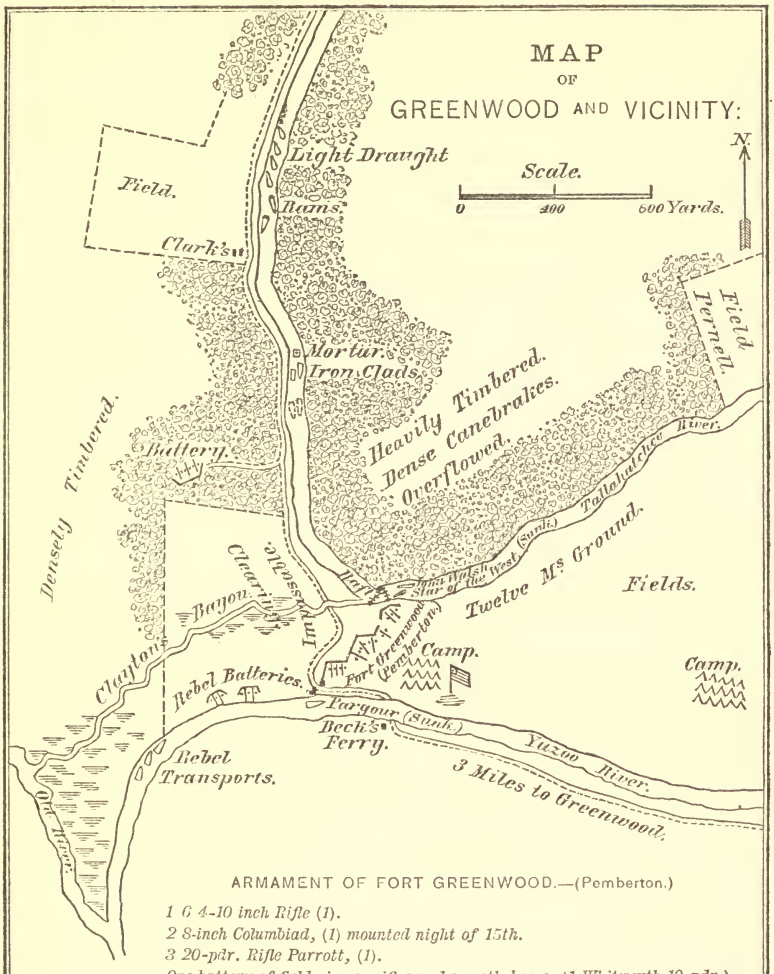
There are not more than fifty plantations between the entrance to Yazoo Pass and the mouth of the Tallahatchee, a distance of nearly 200 miles.

By the time Yazoo Pass was ready for navigation, General Grant had organized an expedition of about 5,000 men, to co-operate with a naval force of two iron-clads, two rams, and six light-draught gunboats. On the 24th of February, the iron-clad Chillicothe, 160 feet long and 50 feet beam, followed by the Baron De Kalb, 175 feet long and 51 feet beam, entered the Pass from Moon Lake. The light-clads, rams, and transports, to the number of twenty-two, some of them as much as 220 feet long and 55 feet beam, followed, and without any serious accident reached Dr. Curtiss' plantation, a few miles from the junction of the Yalabusha and the Tallahatchee Rivers, on the evening of March 10, 1863. It may not be improper to state that the rams and iron-clads could have reached the same point easily by the 3d March, and with extra activity by the 1st.

On the morning of the 11th, the Chillicothe moved down in range of the battery erected by the rebels in a loop between the Tallahatchee and the Yazoo, covering the mouth of the Yalabusha and Greenwood, and when within about 1,100 yards of the fort was opened upon by a rifle 32-pounder and several smaller pieces. One shot took effect near the right-hand corner of the square turret, bending and denting the plate upon which it took effect, about 4 inches from the plane of its original position, and knocking the 9-inch pine backing into fragments.

On the afternoon of this day, both the Chillicothe and De Kalb moved down to the attack, but, having approached no nearer than 900 or 1,000 yards, their shots had produced no visible effect, when the Chillicothe received a shot in her left bow port and withdrew.

On the night of the 12th, by direction of General Ross, commanding the land forces, I erected a cotton-bale battery at a point indicated on the inclosed sketch, putting in it one 30-pounder rifled Parrott obtained from the Navy. The materials were moved from Clarke's plantation house at night, and the battery completed between 11 p. m. and 6 a. m. 13th.



ARMAMENT OF FORT GREENWOOD.—(Pemberton.)

1 6 4-10 inch Rifle (1).
2 8-inch Columbiad, (1) mounted night of 15th.
3 20-pdr. Rifle Parrott, (1).
One battery of field pieces, rifles and smooth-bores, (1 Whitworth 10-pdr.)
Waul's Legion, 2d Texas, 46th Miss., 20th Miss., all we could hear of, not to exceed 3500 men.

ARMAMENT OF ATTACKING FORCE.

Land Battery, { *2 30-pds. Parrotts.* / *1 8-inch Ship Howitzer.*

De Kalb, { *2 9-inch Guns.* / *1 10 " "*

Chillicothe, 2 11 " "

NOTE.—The Cotton-bale Battery was a partly sunken Redan, 35 feet long, 8 feet relief, composed of cotton bales, (partly covered with earth,) two tiers high, six tiers deep, embrasures one foot splay, revetted with sheet iron, which blew out soon. Cotton did not burn to any hurtful extent; kept wet by pouring water on. The platforms were 9 by 14, one foot below surface, four inches higher on the rear line.

The Navy having accomplished nothing, on account of long range, another 30-pounder Parrott was added on the night of the 13th, and on the night of the 15th an 8-inch ship howitzer was put in position.

These guns were not used with any hope of seriously injuring the enemy, since the battery could not be placed so as to enfilade the enemy's work, nor close enough to give any reasonable ground for hope of dismounting his guns by direct fire.

From the inclosed sketch * you will perceive that the position of Fort Pemberton was unassailable by infantry, and therefore could only be taken by a vigorous and determined naval attack. This was not made, the closest the gunboats ever went not being less than 800 yards.

The site of the fort was but very little above water, and therefore it occurred to me that by cutting the Mississippi levee, near Austin, about 18 miles above Helena, a large volume of water might be induced to take the line of the Coldwater and Tallahatchee and flood the country near both streams. The levee was cut by General Prentiss, but not sufficiently to produce the desired effect; had it been destroyed for 2 miles, at the point indicated, I have little doubt that 2 feet of a rise would have reached Greenwood. The enemy could not have withstood more than 12 inches.

During our presence in the vicinity of Fort Greenwood, the rebels mounted one 8-inch columbiad. The armament is given in the sketch.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
First Lieutenant Engineers, Lieutenant-Colonel, &c.

Brig. Gen. JOSEPH G. TOTTEN,
Chief Engineer, U. S. Army.

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HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., June 18, 1863.

GENERAL: The report of Brig. Gen. L. F. Ross, commanding the Yazoo expedition, having failed to reach you, I have the honor to make the following statement, for your information:

On the 23d day of February, 1863, the Yazoo Pass was opened for navigation. On the 24th, the expedition left Moon Lake, and on the 10th day of March arrived at or near Fort Pemberton. The distance traversed was about 225 miles. The difficulties of navigation, as described in my letters to you, were great, and some of the transports were old and unseaworthy, yet all of these things are insufficient to account for all of the delay. Such other causes as may have existed should be known, and out of justice to both branches of the public service involved in the expedition I deem it my duty to state them.

To the timidity, over cautiousness, and lack of interest displayed by Lieut. Commander Watson Smith, commanding the gunboats, and the delays growing out of them, is attributable the failure of the entire expedition. Lieutenant-Commander Smith was frequently urged by General Ross, myself, and Captains Walker and Foster, of the Navy, to move with more rapidity, or, at least, allow the iron-clads and rams to proceed with all practicable dispatch to the mouth of the Tallahatchee. I have no hesitation in saying that, had these suggestions been followed, the entire expedition could have reached Fort Pemberton from three to five days sooner than it did, and that the iron-clads, the only ones depended

* See p. 389.

upon in attacking land batteries, could have arrived there by the 2d of March at furthest.

It is not necessary at this time to urge the importance of the lost days, or what might have been the result had more activity been displayed by Lieutenant-Commander Smith.

With the highest admiration for the gallantry and intelligence displayed by Captains [James P.] Foster and [John G.] Walker, of the Chillicothe and De Kalb, and the earnest conviction that they would have cheerfully obeyed any order from their superior officer, I am constrained to state that in the attack upon Fort Pemberton Lieutenant-Commander Smith again failed to exhibit the decision and intelligence necessary under such circumstances to secure the advantage of a victory. After the Chillicothe and De Kalb had silenced the fort, he failed to push the latter close enough to it to ascertain the cause of its not replying to her fire. I requested General Ross at the time to urge upon him the importance of this step and the probability of our success, and have reason to believe he followed my suggestion. At all events, it was ascertained a few days afterward, from reliable sources, that had the De Kalb been advanced she would have met with no further resistance, because the rebel ammunition was exhausted. The truth of this is now beyond peradventure.

It was simply impossible for General Ross to assault the works at this or any other time, with or without re-enforcements.

Hoping that this matter may be investigated, and the responsibility fixed where it belongs, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieut. Col., Acting Inspector-General, First Lieutenant-Engrs.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee.

No. 2.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Benjamin M. Prentiss, U. S. Army, commanding District of Eastern Arkansas.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN ARKANSAS,
Helena, Ark., March 17, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to inclose with this, for the information of the general commanding department, a copy of a dispatch this day received by me from Brigadier-General Ross,* on the Yazoo, giving an account of his meeting with the enemy at Greenwood; also a copy of a plan of the enemy's works at that point, which accompanied the dispatch. These dispatches came by the small steamer Carl, which left Greenwood at 9 a. m. on Saturday last, up to which time the firing had not been recommenced.

The Carl arrived here this p. m., having consumed a little over three days in the trip.

To-morrow morning I send the Hamilton Belle, a small boat, with 50,000 rations to General Ross.

I inclose also copy of a letter received from General Hovey,† whom

* See Report No. 3, of March 13, p. 385. † Not found.

I have sent on a flying trip to secure small boats. He notes some of the difficulties in the way of obtaining boats suitable to go into the Pass.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. M. PRENTISS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

—

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN ARKANSAS,
Helena, Ark., March 19, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that my latest advices from General Ross are of the date of the 15th instant, when he was still confronting the rebel fort, Greenwood. He was still at work cannonading the enemy, but had made little or no impression on them, although he had added an 8-inch howitzer to his land battery. General Ross reported the fort as being much stronger than was anticipated, and required more work for its reduction.

We intended on Monday to resume firing, but could not sustain an action for over two hours, owing to scarcity of ammunition, for which he sent to me. Colonel Wilson also sent a requisition for four 8-inch siege howitzers and four 30-pounder Parrotts. I to-day sent to General Ross a supply of ammunition, all I had here. Last night I dispatched a boat to Memphis to procure the guns called for, and ammunition for the same. I expect they will arrive to-night, so that they can be sent to General Ross to-morrow. I am sparing no pains to keep up communication with General Ross, keep him supplied with rations, &c., and do all in my power to help him till General Quinby assumes command of the expedition. I do not doubt my ability to keep up communications with both generals, but am sadly in want of transports at present. Fort Greenwood General Ross represents as inaccessible to infantry, so that he must depend upon artillery for its reduction. I look for further advices from there very soon.

I am, general, very truly, your obedient servant,

B. M. PRENTISS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee.

P. S.—20th, 8 a. m.—Two regiments from General Carr's command at Saint Genevieve are just in. I shall change them from small to large boats, and send them immediately forward, retaining the small boats.

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HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN ARKANSAS,
Helena, Ark., March 20, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of a communication just received, 6.30 p. m., from General Ross,* and a communication from Colonel Wilson to General Ross.†

* See Ross to Prentiss, with inclosure, March 17, p. 396.
† See inclosure, p. 396.

I have made the copies in haste, to detain the gunboat as brief a time as possible.

I am, general, very truly, your obedient servant,

B. M. PRENTISS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee.

P. S.—I shall follow the suggestions of General Ross, and cut the levee and let the water in; it will do us no harm, and can do the enemy no good.

No. 3.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Leonard F. Ross, U. S. Army, commanding Thirteenth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, of operations March 2–April 8.

HDQRS. THIRTEENTH DIV., THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
On transports in Coldwater River, March 2, 1863.

GENERAL: My entire fleet was in the Coldwater at 11 o'clock this a. m., though some of my boats are in a damaged condition. The Diana and Emma are very much damaged, but I hope to get through with them. If I find it impossible to take them through, will send them back from the mouth of this river or leave them there. A cavalry force sent out from Alcorn's (only 20 miles from the mouth of Coldwater) would be able to communicate with them, if left behind.

I would advise that the cavalry stationed on the Pass make a tour in that direction in the course of a couple of days. Commodore Smith informs me that he will send the Key West back to Helena, or that he will direct her captain, with 100 troops on board, to report to me. He has that many more troops than he wants, and I have no use for them, or rather no place to put them, and will send them back with the boat.

A large force of rebels is reported on the Tallahatchee awaiting our advance. I do not credit the report, but if they are there we shall probably find them in the course of a couple of days, when we shall do just the best we can.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. ROSS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. B. M. PRENTISS.

P. S.—If you desire to keep up communication with us, why not rig up the Carl with a couple of light howitzers and from 50 to 75 infantrymen? It would, in my opinion, be sufficient until we get in the Yazoo.

—

ON THE TALLAHATCHEE,
Fifteen miles below mouth of Coldwater, March 7, 1863.

GENERAL: We got into the Tallahatchee last night, and have made but 10 miles to-day, in consequence of the delay for coaling the gunboats. We leave arranged to leave the coal-barges in charge of the gunboat (Marmora) and the Twenty-ninth Iowa Infantry, and with the balance of our forces to push on to Greenwood. We expect to arrive at

the mouth of the Yalabusha on Monday evening, go forward to Greenwood in the morning (10th), and by 12 m. to have possession of it. Here we shall await our coal-barges, and in the mean time possibly make a move toward Grenada. Greenwood is represented as being fortified, and we have been very kindly informed that there were from 20,000 to 30,000 troops awaiting our arrival.

In regard to rations, I have enough only to supply me to the 13th. I ordered 30,000 more rations forward; if received, will have enough to last to the 22d. I learn that many of the gunboats are about out, and are expecting to get from me; in fact, I have already issued to some of them. If I remain to do the work that seems to be before me, I shall want more rations, say 50,000 more. They can be safely sent forward; if they do not find me at Greenwood, there will be a gunboat there or at the mouth of the Yalabusha, to receive them. I shall also have one regiment of infantry with the gunboat, to guard our provisions, coal, &c.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEONARD F. ROSS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Brig. Gen. B. M. PRENTISS.

HDQRS. THIRTEENTH DIV., THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
On the Tallahatchee, 20 miles below the Coldwater,
March 8, 1863—8.30 a. m.

GENERAL: We have again made a late start this morning, being delayed for the gunboats to complete coaling. The work should have been done by 2 o'clock this morning, and we on our way by 5.30, but it was 7.30 this morning before we started, and then had to leave one of the gunboats to finish her coaling. I am a little, yes, considerably, disgusted with these necessary delays. I hope it will be better in the future.

Many complaints having been made of the unserviceable condition of some of our boats, I had Lieut. Col. J. H. Wilson make examination of them, and inclose you a memorandum made by him in regard to them. I don't believe the boats mentioned will be able to get back through the Pass; they certainly will not be without repairs. I will try to get them to the mouth of the Yalabusha and leave them until the mouth of the Yazoo is opened, when they can be floated through. I am very much in want of two or three good boats about the size of the Volunteer, and a couple of boats about the size of the Winona or Carl, to be used as dispatch boats and for foraging. I hope they will be sent through at once. I send up this morning the Luella. She is in bad condition, and should be repaired at once. I send up one company of Twenty-eighth Wisconsin as a guard for the Luella, and I wish them returned on first boat coming down. We shall probably move from 40 to 50 miles to-day.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. ROSS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. B. M. PRENTISS,
Commanding District Eastern Arkansas, Helena.

[Inclosure.]

[MARCH 8, 1863.]

Key West No. 2 completely broken down and unable to proceed. Diana, John Bell, Luella, and Bayard (very) unseaworthy, and incapable

of making the trip without great risk of their loss. Saint Louis not in good condition. Some of the others, such as the Lavinia Logan and Old Lebanon, might fail at any moment under a stress of work. Emma broken down and exchanged for Key West No. 2.

J. H. WILSON.

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IN FRONT OF GREENWOOD, MISS., *March* 13, 1863.

GENERAL: My fleet of transports are now lying in the Tallahatchee, about 5 miles from Greenwood on a direct line, and about 12 by the Tallahatchee and Yazoo Rivers.

We arrived here on the morning of the 11th instant, and have been prevented from advancing any farther by a strong fortification, extending from the Tallahatchee to the Yazoo River, across a neck of land some 2½ miles below.

On the morning of the 11th, I went on board of the gunboat Chillicothe, in company with Commander Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, for the purpose of making a reconnaissance, in which we exchanged several shots, two 64-pounder shot of the enemy striking the Chillicothe, but doing her no damage.

I sent Colonel Slack, of the Forty-seventh, and Colonel Bringhurst, of the Forty-sixth Indiana Volunteers, out on a reconnaissance by land. We soon met the outposts of the enemy, when a brisk skirmish followed, in which 2 of our men were wounded. The loss of the enemy not known. We drove them back into their fortifications, which you will observe, by inclosed plats, are very difficult of access, being entirely surrounded by water.

In the afternoon the Chillicothe again made an advance on the works of the enemy, and after remaining in action about thirty minutes, received a shot in one of her port-holes, which killed 4 and wounded 12 of her crew.

On the 12th, we were engaged in repairing the damage to the Chillicothe and making preparations for the erection of a land battery.

This morning we had in position on land two 30-pounder Parrott guns and one 12-pounder howitzer, with which we opened on the enemy at 11 a. m. At 11.20 the gunboats Chillicothe and De Kalb and the mortar-boat also opened fire. All were hotly engaged until about 1 p. m., when the Chillicothe withdrew for the purpose of filling shell and cutting fuses.

Up to that time she had been struck about twenty times without inflicting any serious damage. Firing was continued by the others until sundown with but little effect. There has been an immense amount of fighting done during the day, and but 3 or 4 slightly wounded on our side. We have no means of knowing the extent of the enemy's damage. If no greater than our own, I may truly say nobody is hurt by to-day's operations.

We go at them again in the morning, and shall continue fighting at them until we get possession. When the work is completed, will forward detailed report. I inclose, for information, plat of fortifications and surrounding country* by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. ROSS,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Brig. Gen. B. M. PRENTISS, *Comdg. Dist. of Eastern Arkansas.*

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* See p. 389.

IN FRONT OF FORT GREENWOOD, MISS.,
March 17, 1863.

GENERAL: Having added to our land battery one 68-pounder columbiad, we opened on the enemy again at 12.30 o'clock yesterday. The gunboat Chillicothe engaged them ten minutes later. Our fire was responded to by the enemy with spirit. They had added some heavy guns, and erected two new batteries during the night. In view of the shortness of our ammunition, I had arranged for a short and brisk fight at close quarters, and, if successful in silencing their batteries, to make a descent upon the fort with infantry, loaded on the light-draught gunboats, and storm it. The arrangements being all made, and the infantry placed on the boats, we opened the fight. The Chillicothe had not been engaged fifteen minutes until she was struck six times, and both of her port-holes closed, by being so battered that the doors to her ports could not be opened. She had to withdraw, and the De Kalb, being unwilling to engage alone, also retired.

Our land battery continued until sundown; but as soon as the gunboats withdrew, the enemy covered his heavy guns with cotton, and replied to us with light field pieces. Only 1 man had his arm shot off at our land battery, and 1 wounded on the Chillicothe. In order to take this fort, we must have ordnance of heavy caliber and plenty of ammunition. Better gunboats must be sent us, if it is expected to accomplish anything with them. I don't believe our two iron-clads can stand the terrific fire of the guns now on the fort for one hour without total destruction.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. ROSS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

General B. M. PRENTISS,
Commanding District of Eastern Arkansas.

P. S.—I herewith inclose a communication from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, in regard to the enlargement of the opening in the levee. I approve of the suggestions. Let all the water in you can. That, with a good strong stream of fire, will rout them, I think.

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS YAZOO EXPEDITION,
U. S. Transport Volunteer, March 16, 1863.

SIR: As the position occupied by the rebel fortifications below here is very little above the present level of the water, it has occurred to me that a further rise of 4 feet would possibly compel the abandonment of the place. This increased rise might be induced by cutting the levee, so as to make a *crevasse* a mile or so long at the entrance of Yazoo Pass. In addition to opening the present *crevasse*, another a mile or two lower down, at the point where the levee strikes the old lake, could be easily made, and would furnish a very large volume of water.

Small mines of powder, say 50 to 100 pounds, established at intervals along the levee, and exploded by slow match, would afford an expeditious method of doing the work. Post augers, with a 12 or 15 inch bit, and handles long enough to bore 10 feet, would be the most expeditious instrument for sinking the shafts. These augers could be made by any good mechanic in a short time. The experiment, I think, is worth trying.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. WILSON,
Lieut. Col., A. I. G., and Chief Topl. Engrs., Army of Tenn.

TALLAHATCHEE RIVER, *March* 21, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the infantry forces engaged in the Yazoo expedition while it continued under my command:

I embarked my command on steamers Volunteer, Lebanon No. 2, Cheeseman, Diana, L. Logan, Saint Louis, Mariner, Moderator, Ida May, Emma, Citizen, and John Bell, and made every preparation required "to be used with the Yazoo expedition," proceeded at once to Yazoo Pass, and joined fleet of gunboats lying at Moon Lake. I entered the Pass on the 25th of February; was detained by high winds and the difficulty in moving coal-barges, but succeeded in entering the Coldwater on the evening of March 1, having been five days in going the distance of 16 miles.

The steamer Emma, being reported totally disabled, was ordered back to Helena, and the Key West taken in her stead. We arrived in the Tallahatchee on the evening of the 6th of March. Here we determined on leaving the coal-barges behind, and pushing forward with all possible dispatch. As we moved forward through a well-cultivated country, cotton fires were seen on all sides.

On the evening of the 10th, we came upon the wreck of the steamer Parallel and barge, loaded with cotton, and in flames. The enemy being unable to get them away, had set them on fire. The boats were reported to contain over 3,000 bales, and I think we saw over that number on fire at the different plantations passed by us.

On the morning of the 11th, arrived in front of Fort Greenwood, a strong fortification, about 3 miles from the village of Greenwood. A full description of the fort, of the reconnaissance on board the Chillicothe and by land with the Forty-sixth and Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteers on the 11th, also the engagement of the same day, have been heretofore forwarded, under date of the 13th.

On the 12th, a reconnaissance was made by a small party under Captain Ryan. The Chillicothe was making some repairs, and two 30-pounder Parrott guns and one 68-pounder howitzer were placed in battery.

On the 13th, the gunboats Chillicothe, Captain Foster, and De Kalb, Captain Walker, the mortar-boat, and our land battery opened and kept up a constant fire for about an hour and a half, when the gunboats withdrew, the land battery and mortar continuing until sunset. Two killed and 4 wounded during the day.

On the 14th, our land battery fired a few rounds; the gunboats were not yet ready to renew the attack. The Thirty-third Missouri, Colonel Pile, and Forty-seventh Indiana, Colonel Slack, were engaged in making important reconnaissances on both sides of the river. Two prisoners were taken by the Thirty-third Missouri.

On the 16th, it was arranged to make another effort to take the fort. The gunboats were to engage at close quarters, and the land battery to open at the same time, and, if successful in silencing the batteries of the enemy, the infantry were to move down in light-draught gunboats and assault the fort. The gunboat Chillicothe was disabled within fifteen minutes after she became engaged, and withdrew; the De Kalb followed, and the movement was a failure. The Chillicothe was so severely damaged, and the supply of ammunition was so short, that it was considered unsafe to renew the attack.

We remained in front of the fort until the morning of the 20th, occupying the time constantly reconnoitering the country thoroughly by

strong parties, accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson and the officers of my staff, but every attempt to find any feasible point of attack for infantry failed. The rebels' works were so surrounded by swamps, bayous, and overflowed country as to be inaccessible for land forces. The iron-clads were nearly out of ammunition, and the Chillicothe so damaged as to be disabled. We had heard nothing from reenforcements that were expected; our dispatch boats had been so long delayed as to excite our apprehensions for their safety, and we had information of rebel movements to establish a blockade at the mouth of Coldwater by sending infantry and artillery by railroad to Panola, and thence down the Tallahatchee. Under these circumstances, being wholly destitute of siege artillery, or any means of effecting the reduction of the fort, it was thought advisable to fall back.

At 12 m. of the 21st, we met General Quinby, with a portion of his division, moving toward the Yazoo River. Under his orders we are to return to the attack. During the expedition my officers and men have behaved nobly; they are entitled to my thanks. To the active industry of General Fisk, and for the cool counsel of General Salomon, Colonels Slack, Bringhurst, and Pile, I feel greatly indebted. Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, of General Grant's staff, who accompanied the expedition as chief engineer, made himself useful generally. He made reconnaissances, built batteries, and occasionally worked them, and was ready at all times, day and night, to aid in pushing forward the work.

Lieutenant-Colonel [John A.] McLaughlin, my picket and grand guard officer; Major [James L.] Dicken, medical director; Captain [Milton S.] Kimball, assistant adjutant-general; Captain [Henry T.] Noble, quartermaster, and Captain [Abraham H.] Ryan and Lieutenant [James K.] Catlin, aides-de-camp, were always at their posts and engaged in the faithful discharge of their various duties, and I should not fail to state that Colonel Lewis, of the Twenty-eighth Wisconsin, arranged to lead the assault on the fort in case the heavy guns had been silenced. We did not take the fort, but I feel that all was done that could be done with the means at our disposal.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. ROSS,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

General B. M. PRENTISS.

HELENA, ARK., *April* 18, 1863.

COLONEL: In compliance with the request of the major-general commanding the department, I have the honor to submit the following suggestions in regard to the causes of the failure of the Yazoo expedition to accomplish the object originally contemplated:

The forces under my command consisted of nine regiments of infantry and one light field battery. We embarked upon thirteen transports at Helena, Ark., February 24, and moved into the Pass in the rear of the fleet of gunboats. Our transports, though perhaps the best that could be procured, were very poor, and frequently delayed us by breakage and derangement of machinery.

The gunboats had three barges loaded with coal, which they towed or floated with them. These were very difficult to manage, the channel was so extremely narrow and tortuous, often impeding our movements very greatly. It was impossible, from the character of the stream, to move except by daylight. With the utmost expedition that could be

used, it was not until the evening of March 1 that the light-draught gunboats and transports entered the Coldwater. By this time a number of our transports were more or less crippled, and it seemed to me quite evident that it was of the utmost importance that a part of the expedition should advance more rapidly than the coal-barges and the partially disabled transports could be moved.

We were entering the enemy's country through a route with which he was familiar, and he was advised daily by a line of couriers connecting with his telegraph lines of our progress. The point at which we were aiming—the confluence of the Yalabusha and Tallahatchee Rivers—if gained, opened to us the Yazoo Valley, the richest in the southwest, containing immense supplies of all descriptions.

The enemy was, by means of the Yazoo River, in easy communication with this point, and could speedily concentrate any desired force to oppose our progress. Reports began to reach us of the enemy's determination to make a stand at Greenwood, but if even a single gunboat could reach the point before the rebels had erected fortifications, and mounted heavy guns, they could very easily be prevented from effecting a lodgment.

The wide strips of overflowed country on each side between the river and the hills rendered the movement of boats comparatively safe, as there were very few points above Greenwood that could be reached by infantry and artillery, and if the enemy came in force he must come by the river.

The iron-clads, not being subject to the impediments that constantly retarded the light-draughts and transports, moved down the stream with great facility, and, if allowed to proceed without waiting for the rest of the fleet, could have reached Greenwood probably in two days after leaving the Pass. Besides the delay necessarily attending this movement, there were many that I deemed quite unnecessary. Instead of moving in the morning at early dawn, as could and should have been done, it was frequently delayed until 7 or 7.30 o'clock. On several occasions the gunboat immediately in my advance stopped and lay to an hour for dinner; and when in motion it seemed that they moved very slowly, as I had no difficulty in keeping up with my transports. In consulting with Lieut. Commander Watson Smith, I urged the necessity of greater rapidity of movement; advised leaving the coal-barges in the rear, with sufficient guard to protect them, and, with the iron-clads and such light transports and light gunboats as could keep up with them, to push forward with the utmost expedition, and gain the mouth of the Tallahatchee, and hold it until the rest of the fleet could join them. I was ably seconded by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson. Lieutenant-Commanders Foster and Walker, commanding the iron-clads, also concurred in these views, and were very desirous to be permitted to push forward.

They entered the Coldwater on the morning of February 27, and, had they moved directly on, would have reached the point now known as Fort Pemberton before a single gun was mounted, thus giving us easy control of the Yalabusha and the Yazoo as far as Yazoo City; but the plan was rejected, and it was not until the 11th of March that we reached the mouth of the Tallahatchee.

By this time the rebels had concentrated there about 6,000 men, and had formidable works completed. Possibly, we still might have succeeded, had not the Chillicothe, through fault of construction, proved unable to sustain the fire of the enemy's heavy guns. Infantry being precluded, by the situation of the fort and extent of the overflow, from

effecting anything by direct attack, we were compelled to rely on the gunboats to silence the enemy's battery. Had this been done, our infantry forces could have soon cleared the river of obstructions, and a single gunboat once past the fort would have secured us not only the position but the entire garrison; but, failing in this, nothing could be effected.

I have deemed it unnecessary to encumber this communication with details. Having made full reports, with plats accompanying, from time to time during the progress of the expedition, it is but just to say that, while I am satisfied Lieutenant-Commander Smith might, by more energy and rapidity of movement, have made the expedition successful, the error was one of the judgment only; that he was, although in very feeble health, after arriving in front of the fort, indefatigable in his labors, and exhibited during the engagement the utmost coolness and gallantry.

I have not alluded to the period during which Brigadier-General Quinby commanded the expedition, for, in my opinion, its fate was decided, and a withdrawal inevitable, as soon as it appeared that the gunboat could not silence the enemy's work.

The officers and soldiers of my command performed the many arduous duties required of them with a vigilance and alacrity deserving of the highest praise, and, although we were scouting and reconnoitering constantly, and made repeated captures of rebel soldiers singly and in squads, I did not have a man captured by them during the entire expedition.

Upon a full retrospect, with my present knowledge of the facts, I can discover nothing that the infantry force could have done, with the means at hand, more than they did to insure success.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. ROSS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 4.

Report of Brig. Gen. Frederick Salomon, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, THIRTEENTH DIVISION,
[*Helena,*] *April* 10, 1863.

GENERAL: My brigade having formed a part of the Yazoo Pass expedition, under your command, I have the honor to submit the following report of the same:

In compliance with former instructions, my command, numbering in aggregate 1,803 effective men, was embarked on six transports, with fifteen days' rations and tents for shelter, on the 24th of February. The inclosed tabular statement, marked A,* gives the different regiments with the expedition, and their respective strength.

On the 11th day of March, the forces arrived 2 miles north of rebel Fort Pemberton, after a tedious and perilous passage through the Yazoo Cut, Moon Lake, Yazoo Pass, Coldwater, and Tallahatchee Rivers, my

* Not found.

command having the advance, under your personal direction. The Forty-sixth Indiana was disembarked first for a reconnaissance to the front, and drove in the enemy's pickets. The command was then encamped at that place. Has done during all the time of our stay picket duty in the front; furnished heavy fatigue details for the construction of batteries; has made reconnaissance to McNutt, toward the Yalabusha and Yazoo Rivers. The command was in the beginning suffering for medical stores and medicines, but was soon fully supplied. Officers and men have cheerfully performed the heavy duties required by the situation. The position was finally evacuated on the 5th day of April, and the command arrived at Helena on the 8th. The inclosed tabular statement * gives the loss of the command. Considering that parts of the command have been under the fire of the enemy all the time, the loss is extremely light.

I cannot close this report without mentioning the good effect obtained by the strict discipline enforced under your command.

F. SALOMON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

General L. F. ROSS.

No. 5.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Cadwallader C. Washburn, U. S. Army, of preliminary operations.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF EASTERN ARKANSAS,
Helena, Ark., February 18, 1863.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: I have the honor herewith to hand to you two autograph letters from Brigadier-General Washburn, in command of the enterprise at the Yazoo Pass, which I think will be the best report I can make to you of the progress of that enterprise. I have no doubt that the plan upon which we are there working will be successful, and will prove of great advantage to us. I will issue such a dispatch as is suggested by General Washburn in Inclosure No. 2.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
B. M. PRENTISS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HEADQUARTERS YAZOO PASS EXPEDITION,
February 16, 1863.

GENERAL: I shall send a steamer up in the morning with 3 wounded men who were shot to-day by rebel cavalry. They are still hanging around, watching our movements and embarrassing us a little. I report good progress to-day. Have taken out a good many very large trees, and I believe that in four days I can reach the Coldwater, and if the water does not fall any more I will have a channel cut that will take through a boat 200 feet long and 50 feet wide. I am satisfied that they cannot establish any timber blockade that I cannot remove. My recon-

* Not found.

naissance to the Coldwater leads me to think that they cannot blockade that to any great extent with timber. I think we ought to have two powerful rams and one iron-clad ready to send through as soon as the blockade is cleared out. It would be hazardous to send a large fleet of light transports down the Yazoo until we know what kind of rams and gunboats the rebels have there. If the water does not fall any more, I am satisfied that we can take as large an army down here as we can find transports for. Unless I meet with unforeseen obstacles, I believe I can get a boat through to the Tallahatchee within one week, and I would urge that as soon as we have this Pass clear, a small gunboat be sent through and down as far as the mouth of Coldwater, as it will be difficult for me to say that the Coldwater is clear, from a land reconnaissance, as there are many places that a land force cannot get to it. I wish very much that you would come down here, as I am anxious to have your opinion. The rebel cavalry that is hovering around I am anxious to run out of the country or capture, and to that end I wish you would send me to-morrow 200 more cavalry. Send them to Moon Lake, and land them half a mile east of Dr. Dowd's plantation, on the north side of the lake, with instructions to proceed to Hunt's Mill, on the Yazoo Pass, where I hope to be by the time they can get there. Have them take two days' rations of all but meat, with their blankets and a plenty of ammunition.

The men I have here I wish to retain until this job is done, and I have promised them that a paymaster shall remain at Helena until they can get back, and I request that you will see that it is so.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

C. C. WASHBURN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. B. M. PRENTISS,
Commanding District of Eastern Arkansas, Helena.

P. S.—In sending me cavalry, I wish you would see that an officer of a rank not less than a major is sent. I should like to have either Lieutenant-Colonel Wood, First Indiana Cavalry, or Major Walker, Fifth Kansas. If you can hasten this matter so that this cavalry shall reach Hunt's Mills to-morrow night, I shall be glad.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

YAZOO PASS, *February* 16, 1863.

GENERAL: Since writing you a few moments since, it has occurred to me that we might throw the enemy off his guard. I wish you would contrive to have it telegraphed to the Associated Press about as follows, viz:

"The attempt to open the Yazoo Pass is likely to prove an entire failure. After expending great labor to remove the obstructions placed in it by the rebels, it is found impossible to open it except for the very smallest kind of boats. Besides, the rapid fall of water, it is reported, has caught a number of boats in the Pass, which, unless strongly guarded, are liable to be destroyed."

Such a dispatch would find its way to Vicksburg in two days after it was published in the Eastern papers.

Truly, yours,

C. C. WASHBURN,
Brigadier-General.

Brigadier-General PRENTISS.

No. 6.

Reports of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Lake Providence, La., March 13, 1863.

GENERAL: Inclosed please find copies of dispatches just received from Generals Quinby* and Ross,† which will give you an idea of the difficulties they have to contend with. The whole country on the east side of the Mississippi in the vicinity of Yazoo Pass and in Moon Lake is overflowed, and General Quinby was obliged to disembark his troops on the western bank of the Mississippi, not far from the Pass, on the only dry ground he could find. As General Quinby was obliged to discharge some boats for repairs, only six have returned, and I cannot learn that any more are coming down. These will carry about two-thirds of Logan's division. Unless I can obtain more boats, it will take over two weeks to get the command here to the entrance to Moon Lake. I am extremely anxious to get into the Yazoo as soon as possible with re-enforcements, for I am apprehensive that Quinby will meet with a stronger force than he can attend to.

General Logan's division will commence embarking to-morrow, and will probably be off the day after, or at least as much of it as the boats can carry.

Colonel Lagow has, I presume, given you all the points in relation to cotton, contrabands, cutting the levee, &c.

Very respectfully,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee.

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LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA.,
March 22, 1863—4 p. m.

GENERAL: One brigade of General Logan's division and part of another are on board of transports, ready to start for Eagle Bend, and will reach that point early to-morrow. I shall leave General McArthur here and go down with General Logan's division.

I inclose you a copy of General Quinby's dispatch,‡ just received, from which you will understand the difficulties he has had to contend with. I have just received a letter from Colonel Boomer, dated the 20th, stating that boats enough had arrived to take the balance of General Quinby's division, and that he would be off double quick. He also stated that he thought boats enough would be down yesterday to take General Smith's division.

Since cutting the levee at this point, the water has risen steadily in the lake until the shore is all overflowed, except in a few high points. I have been obliged to move the whole of Logan's division, and all but one brigade of McArthur's, up the river about 5 miles, in order to get

* See No. 7, report of March 9, p. 404.
† See No. 3, report of March 7, p. 393.
‡ See No. 7, report of March 16, p. 406.

camping ground. General Ransom is still up the river, at American Bend, with two regiments from here, and the force that came up from the fleet. I am expecting him down to-night or to-morrow.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Department of the Tennessee.

No. 7.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Isaac F. Quinby, U. S. Army, commanding Seventh Division, of operations March 9–28.

HDQRS. SEVENTH DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Helena, Ark., March 9, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report my arrival at the entrance to the passage to Moon Lake at 3 p. m. yesterday; but as the wind was then blowing quite hard from the north, and there was also some fog, I did not think it prudent to attempt passing to the lake until the wind should fall and the fog clear away. The land adjoining the entrance for some distance, both above and below, is overflowed, and I therefore made for the opposite shore of the river, where I found dry land and a good place for tying up boats. I then went to Helena, about 4 miles distant, to get some definite information about the character of the pass to the lake, as well as that from the lake to the Coldwater.

I saw General Prentiss and Major [Reuben B.] Hatch, acting quartermaster, both of whom advised against the attempt to take my large transports into the lake. I determined that I would take a small steamer to-day and go through the Pass, to enable me to judge for myself, first, as to the propriety of going in with the large boats, and, secondly, to select the best position for establishing the camp of my division.

I have but just returned from the lake, and am compelled to say that, in my opinion, it would be unwise to try the passage with the large transports. The current is rapid, and the narrow channel, at about 100 yards from the river, makes a sharp bend of at least 90 degrees. Long boats, without the most skillful management, could not make this turn.

Should one such boat be sunk in the channel, no others could pass until the wreck was removed, and that would be a work of much time and difficulty.

Nearly all of the lake shore is now submerged, and the water is still rising.

For the above reasons, I shall deem myself justified in departing from the strict letter of your and General Grant's instructions, and will look for some convenient point other than that indicated at which to disembark my troops, believing that in so doing I am complying with what would be your wishes in view of the facts.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Seventh Division.

Maj. Gen. J. B. McPHERSON,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

NEAR HELENA, ARK., *March* 11, 1863.

GENERAL: Inclosed please find copies of communications from General Ross to General Prentiss,* which were received yesterday. They are sent in order that you may know of the progress of the Yazoo expedition, and of the difficulties and embarrassments it has to encounter, without being discouraged. I confess myself very much annoyed by the unwilling and unaccommodating spirit of the steamboat men in charge of the boats which have been thus far assigned to take my division forward. Without exception, all have found some serious defects in their respective boats, which render them unfit for the service, and they resort to all sorts of pleas and subterfuges to get out of it.

Of all the boats in which my division embarked, two only can be used for the expedition. One other (the Brazil) is of the right size, but she leaked badly when we left Memphis, and is now in a still worse condition. It would retard rather than advance our progress to take her, and I have, therefore, ordered her to Memphis for repairs. She will probably be ready for service when Logan's division arrives. A crack was reported in the boiler of the Anglo-Saxon when she arrived here, which I had examined by the engineer of the Superior, who pronounced her unsafe without repairs, and I accordingly ordered her to Memphis for that purpose. She should be back to-night. The Ed. Walsh and John H. Dickey are both in bad order, and unfit for the transportation of troops. They also have been ordered to Memphis for necessary repairs. With these exceptions, all the boats which brought my division will start for Lake Providence to-morrow. It seems to me of the utmost consequence that re-enforcements to General Ross should be speedily sent forward, and my determination now is to load what transports there may be at my disposal to-morrow, and start down the Pass to overtake him. He has but about 4,000 troops, and evidently does not apprehend the dangers by which he is surrounded. I shall leave Colonel Boomer behind, to follow with the rest of the division as soon as he has transportation.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Seventh Division.

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON, *Comdg. Seventeenth Army Corps.*

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NEAR MEMPHIS, TENN., *March* 12, 1863.

GENERAL: We are now loading the few boats we have, and shall be ready to start down the Yazoo Pass early to-morrow morning with the headquarters, the pioneer corps, and at least one brigade of this division. The dispatch boat Winona was sent down to the Yazoo fleet two days since, with instructions to General Ross. She may be back this afternoon, and I shall, of course, be governed by the tenor of the news she may bring. Should she not arrive, however, I shall take the lead with all the troops of my division that the transports at my disposal can carry.

Trusting that you will approve my course, I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major-General MCPHERSON, *Comdg. Seventeenth Army Corps.*

* See Ross to Prentiss, March 7, p. 393, and March 8, p. 394.

STEAMER PRIMA DONNA,
March 16, 1863—8 p. m.

GENERAL: On the morning of the 4th [14th] instant, the First Brigade and the headquarters of this division, together with the pioneer corps and two companies of cavalry, on six transports, left their encampment, 3 miles below Helena, and entered the Yazoo Pass. After three days of unremitting toil, and, for me, much painful anxiety, we have reached the Coldwater, and passed down it about 2 miles.

The other five boats were some distance in my rear when I started this morning, but I hope they will reach this point before noon to-morrow. At all events, I shall not move forward until all get through the Pass.

The Coldwater at its present stage might be called a navigable stream, but the passage from Moon Lake to it can scarcely be made by any except the smallest sized steamboats.

The Prima Donna is greatly damaged, although handled with the utmost care. A great portion of our time was occupied in clearing away obstructions which impeded her progress, as they probably would have that of the other boats; still, she kept well in advance, and will now have to wait at least half a day for them to close up.

It being the determination of Major-General Grant to send your whole army corps, and perhaps two additional divisions, over this route, I may be permitted to suggest that both expedition and economy would be consulted by employing a number, say, twenty, well-constructed flat-boats, and a few small but powerful tugs, rather than the steamboats such as we are now using. A flat-boat, 120 feet long and 50 feet broad, with ordinary skill in its management, would have made in one day the distance that has occupied us three. The first cost of such a flat-boat would scarcely exceed that for repairing the damage to one of the steamboats after making the passage. I commend this to your serious consideration, as I believe it a physical impossibility to transport and subsist a large army by this route with steamboats such as we are now using, and it is not likely that a sufficient number of a suitable size can be found on the Western waters.

The steamer Carl came up to-night just after we had tied up. She brought no official dispatches for me, but the passengers inform me that General Ross is about 2 miles above Greenwood, at a point which is fortified by the enemy.

Our gunboats engaged the rebel batteries last Friday, but were compelled to retire after sustaining some injury.

I shall hurry forward with this brigade as fast as possible, and hope before you overtake me to effect a lodgment at some good position on the Yazoo.

The rest of my division will follow me by brigades as fast as transportation is provided.

I very much fear that the boats which have been down the Pass will not be in a condition to transport other troops without extensive repairs. I predicate this upon the damage the Prima Donna has already received.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General.

Major-General MCPHERSON,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

STEAMER PRIMA DONNA,
March 21, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the arrival of the expedition with which I started from Helena, Ark., on the 14th instant, down the Tallahatchee, about 40 miles below the mouth of Coldwater. We should have gone at least 40 miles farther to-day had I not been surprised, at 12 m., by meeting a fleet of transports bringing the division of General Ross up the river.

It seems that after two unsuccessful attempts by the gunboats to reduce the rebel works just above Greenwood, in which the Chillicothe was quite seriously damaged, it was decided by the commanders of the land and naval forces to abandon the expedition, or rather to defer further operations until more extensive preparations should be made for it.

I immediately had an interview with General Ross, and, after weighing carefully his reasons for making this retrograde movement, deemed it best to order him to return with me to the point he had left above Greenwood. Falling back, after forcing our way thus far, would have a depressing effect upon our army and the country, and raise the hopes and the determination of the rebels.

I also had an interview with Lieutenant-Commander Foster, commanding the gunboat fleet, and induced him to return likewise. We all leave at daylight to-morrow morning, and hope to reach our immediate destination before dark.

After disembarking, I shall send up a sufficient number of transports to bring down the Second and Third Brigades of this division. This, of course, will leave me without means of transporting the whole of my command by water, which may, at any moment, become desirable.

I trust, therefore, you will direct the requisite number of transports to move my whole command to be sent to me at the earliest possible moment. In the belief that you will approve my course, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

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HEADQUARTERS YAZOO EXPEDITION,
Tallahatchee River, March 25, 1863—11 p. m.

GENERAL: This expedition reached the position formerly held by the command under Brigadier-General Ross, about 2 miles above Fort Pemberton, on the afternoon of the 23d instant. At 3 p. m., the same day, I induced Lieutenant-Commander Foster to move down with the Chillicothe and De Kalb to draw the fire of the fort; only three shots were fired from the Chillicothe and none from the De Kalb. The guns of the fort made no response. General Ross and myself, during the firing, were on the right bank of the river, 700 yards from the works, and could distinctly see the guns, but the gunners kept under cover, evidently reserving their fire for a nearer approach of the gunboats. It was raining hard at the time, and continued to do so until noon yesterday, when it cleared up. I deemed it best not to have the troops disembark until to-day. In the mean time I have thoroughly examined both banks of the river to the fort on the west, and several miles below it on the east bank. At the present stage of the water it is impracticable to reach the

fort by land, or the Yazoo River, below it, on the west bank; but from the position I hold on the east bank we can easily get to the Tallahatchee below the fort, and also to the Yalabusha. Both banks of the Tallahatchee, about 3 miles below the fort, are several feet above the water, and by means of a pontoon bridge a force could be thrown in the rear of the fort and beyond the reach of its guns.

By crossing the Yalabusha just above its mouth, and following down the Yazoo until we get below the fort, we could cut off the supplies of the garrison, and compel it to come out to fight or surrender. Either of these places will require a pontoon bridge 250 feet long.

Lieutenant Foster, commanding gunboat fleet, declares positively that, unless he receives orders to the contrary, he will start for the Mississippi River, via Moon Lake, with his whole fleet on or before the 1st proximo. Should he act on this determination, the land forces would be left here in a very precarious position, with nearly 200 miles of unguarded water communications between them and the Mississippi.

I shall do my best to induce him to leave behind the five light-draught gunboats now in the Tallahatchee, but I scarcely hope to change his determination. Six of our transports are under orders to leave for Helena at daylight to-morrow morning, to bring down the rest of my division; but since I have learned of the decision of Lieutenant Foster, I do not know that it would be prudent to send them up. It is one of the great evils of our service that the land and naval forces are left, in a great measure, independent of each other. The best concerted plans are liable to fail from this cause.

In the hope that you will soon be here, I remain, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

MARCH 26, 1863—9 a. m.

P. S.—I detained the transports this morning until I could have an interview with Lieutenant Foster. This I have had, and he promises, in the event of his leaving the Tallahatchee, not to take with him all his light-draught gunboats, but promises that I shall have a sufficient number of them to keep open my communications. The transports will, therefore, leave immediately.

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TALLAHATCHEE RIVER, *March* 28, 1863.

GENERAL: I wrote you a dispatch on the 25th instant, a copy of which I inclose,* fearing that through the delays and accidents to our mails it may not have reached you.

In the mean time the other two brigades of my division have not arrived, and a note from Colonel Boomer, of the 19th instant, in which he informs me that no transports had yet reported to him, gives me no reason to expect them for several days. This delay is to be greatly regretted, for the rebels are constantly receiving re-enforcements, adding to and strengthening their works. It is evident that they intend to make a determined stand at this point. Every move that we make is answered by one from them.

* See p. 407.

The point at which I propose to force a passage of the Tallahatchee is now covered by one of their field-works, as I discovered by a personal reconnaissance yesterday. The recent rains have made the roads by which we pass from the point we now occupy to the river below their fort almost impassable.

But for a heavy rain last night, we should have put under cover to-night a battery of four 10-pounder Parrotts, to silence their battery and prevent the construction of additional works at the point above referred to. This must now be postponed at least another day.

I have written to General Prentiss, at Helena, to send forward, if he has it, material for a bridge 300 feet long, and this morning dispatched a boat up the river for the purpose of having a saw-mill examined, and, if possible, put in running order, to get out such lumber as we require. My fear is that our troops on their way down injured and destroyed the machinery to such an extent that the mill cannot be put in repair in time for our purposes.

Yesterday four 24-pounder siege guns arrived—two of our own and two of rebel manufacture. Of the latter, one only can be used, but it is proposed to mount on the carriage of the other a 30-pounder Parrott, taken from one of the gunboats.

We hope to get these four guns in battery within 700 yards of the fort to-night.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

I. F. QUINBY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 8.

Reports of Lieut. Commander Watson Smith, U. S. Navy.

UNITED STATES MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON,
March 12, 1863.

GENERAL: Lieut. Commander Watson Smith informs me that he has but a month's supply of provisions. I am anxious to supply him, but have no vessel. Can you furnish me with a small steamer that will go without fail through the Pass and join the vessels and troops you have sent up? He will also want ammunition, which I will send him by same conveyance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID D. PORTER,
Acting Rear-Admiral, Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Army of the Mississippi.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

U. S. S. RATTLER,
Coldwater, March 3, 1863.

SIR: We are advancing but slowly. This stream is not so much wider or clearer than the Pass as to make much difference in either speed or the amount of damage inflicted on these vessels.

Our hull has suffered as much to-day as on any day yet. We can only advance with the current; faster than that brings us foul. Our speed is not more than 1½ miles per hour, if that.

Wheels and stacks have escaped, through care; but with over 20 feet above water, and less than 3 in it, without steerage-way, light winds play with us, bringing the sides and trees in rough contact. I imagine that the character of this navigation is different from what was expected. We will get through in fighting condition, but so much delayed that all the advantages of a surprise to the rebels will have been lost.

Evening.—The steamer Bayard broke her stern-post to-day, and that has caused delay. In the Pass, had a hole punched in her below water; she half filled, but was re-covered. The crooked course of the stream, and the thickly wooded shore, prevents our having more than an occasional glimpse of other vessels. Each has its position and distance assigned, but a knowledge of the whereabouts of those next can generally only be ascertained by means of a boat.

The iron-clads have the least trouble from trees or overhanging branches, and are scarcely affected by the wind.

A case of small-pox was reported by the Petrel to-day, and was immediately transferred to a returning transport, for passage to Helena and the hospital.

The shore occasionally makes down to the clear water, but much of the route is through a clearing amidst trees standing in water. I don't think we have seen a plantation in the last 8 miles; all is swamp.

March 4.—The Petrel comes in with her wheel much damaged, and without the means of repairing. I can repair it, but my supply was for but one vessel.

March 5.—The river is clearer, and we make better speed. If we reach the Tallahatchee this evening, which our advance may do, our total distance from Delta will be but 50 miles, not 6 miles per day. I am having an account of the number of navy rations in the expedition taken. No vessel has more than a month's supply at this date, and the Chillicothe but seven days, the Lioness thirteen, and the Fulton seven. The last reports one boiler badly burned. My first knowledge of the Petrel, Lioness, and Fulton being attached to the expedition was received after entering the Pass. They joined after reaching Coldwater, too late for me to prepare them for the expedition, which could only have been done by sending them to Memphis. We are better off than the army, however, and have a fair supply of coal. An organized party of army and navy collects beef for rations and cotton for defense. The people report rebels and batteries below, &c. Gathered some cotton to-day; much that we find is so badly baled as to be dangerous. I hope to make better speed from this time through.

Tallahatchee River, 12 miles from Coldwater, March 6, evening.—Stopped for the night, and waiting for the others to close up.

Our intelligence, received from various sources, at different places and from different people, is that Yazoo City is being fortified, 3,000 negroes doing the labor, and that a large army is there for its defense, provided with heavy guns.

The same is said of Greenwood, but I do not place the same credit in the reports concerning Greenwood.

A receipt in the possession of a man near us on the shore, for cotton for a rebel steamer, shows a naval organization amongst them. It reads in this way:

By command of Isaac N. Brown, I take (specifying quantity, quality, &c.) cotton for the steamer Saint Mary's, to protect her from the enemy's shot.

F. E. SHEPPERD,
Lieutenant C. S. Navy.

As he has a few bales left, he will have another receipt to-morrow from a grade above that in the U. S.

This river is high and the current strong.

Respectfully, yours,

W. SMITH,
Lieutenant-Commander.

Actg. Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER,
Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

U. S. S. RATTLER,
Tallahatchee River, March 7, 1863.

SIR: I am obliged to leave the Petrel about 12 miles from the Coldwater, in the Tallahatchee. Her wheel is about destroyed by accidents and bad management. We will coal to-night, and go on to Greenwood with the gunboats and transports, leaving the Marmora at the junction of the Yalabusha and Tallahatchee, to guard the coal (two barges) and the steamer Bayard and an army transport with troops. The Romeo follows with the mortar. The little provision that the army has is spoiling. They have five days' on hand, and have sent for only six days' in addition. I can maintain my party (those now drawing rations) for one month. If all entitled drew rations, would have rations for twenty-two days.

We have these disadvantages—that we must fight down-stream, and that all are stern-wheelers but one, and the rams cannot reach a vessel with wide guards in a tender place without bringing up against their own works in front of the boilers. I have cut away their bitts, and made the most of those vessels.

The Lioness has eighty-five bales of cotton for defense, two deep before boilers; the Fulton cannot carry any on the sides forward. The army have, I believe, sent for more provisions, but they will be scant when those are received. This delay has spoiled our chances. There will be more of it, as they must forage for provisions and fuel, and every transport, I am told, has an empty hold. I anticipate a rough time. Have made the best preparations that our time and means would admit, and go to work trustingly.

Two cases (contrabands) of small-pox were reported by the Forest Rose to-day. I will have them sent to Helena, and thence to Cairo, if possible. Several of the light-draughts are cottoned forward and on the sides abreast of boilers; a good defense of bales, too, on cabin decks forward and around bows inboard of hammock-nettings, the trees having nearly brushed the nettings away. The light-draughts with hurricane cut roofs have had all the after parts of decks swept away.

Respectfully, yours,

W. SMITH,
Lieutenant-Commander, Comdg. Gunboats, Yazoo Expedition.

Actg. Rear-Admiral DAVID D. PORTER,
Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

No. 9.

Reports of Maj. Gen. William W. Loring, C. S. Army, commanding at Fort Pemberton, &c., of operations February 17–April 11.

HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON,
March 11, 1863. (Received March 12.)

GENERAL: Iron-clad turret-boat Chillicothe came down and attacked us this morning at 10 o'clock. Two of our shots struck her. Firing kept up half an hour, when the boat withdrew. Enemy reported in force landing above about 2 miles, on the opposite side of the Tallahatchee. I have ordered a regiment and battery from [L.] Tilghman to Chockachuma, on the Yalabusha, and himself to take the balance of his command to Yazoo City as rapidly as possible. If you can spare other troops and heavy arms, would advise sending them to Yazoo City, and block the river there strongly, in hopes of resisting them at this point. Please order ammunition to be sent, and order Lieutenant Harrod, engineers, at Yazoo City, now at Vicksburg.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.
Commanding, &c.

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HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON,
March 11, 1863.

GENERAL: Another of the enemy's iron-clads attacked this position this afternoon, and was repelled with injury.

Our 32-pounder shot nearly exhausted; they are our main reliance. Received this evening extraordinary dispatch from Major Mayo. For some reason unknown to us, he takes upon himself the responsibility of refusing to send ammunition. The requisition, approved by me, was made in accordance with your order, with great care, and by actual measurement of each gun. I hear it is too late to send us. The requisition by Colonel [T. N.] Waul was in accordance with the invoices sent him of the guns. There was no material difference between the two requisitions.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

—

JACKSON, *March* 14, 1863.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON,
Chattanooga, Tenn.:

FORT PEMBERTON, ON TALLAHATCHEE RIVER,
March 13—1 p. m.

Terrific fire from enemy; four hours; uninterrupted; from ten to sixteen heavy caliber gunboat guns; two heavy guns on land, and a mortar. All their guns from gunboats, except one, have ceased firing. Gunboats retired around the Bend, 800 yards distant, showing only one gun. Enemy's gunboats and batteries struck constantly; large quantities of burning cotton struck from them. We have lost some valuable gunners and a few others. Thank God, our loss small so far. Enemy's loss must be very great.

Later—7.30 *p. m.*—Just as I sent off my last dispatch to you, enemy opened upon us

again, with one gunboat guns and land battery and 13-inch mortar. Kept it up with great spirit until after sunset. Ammunition arrived just now for heavy guns.

The above just received from General Loring.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON,
March 14, 1863—8 p. m.

Enemy remained quiet until 3 p. m., when they opened from their land batteries, which was briskly returned by us. Lasted but few minutes. Evidently to try strength of our guns.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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FORT PEMBERTON, *March* 16, 1863.

GENERAL: From information and observation, think the enemy number between 5,000 and 10,000. Am of opinion it is but the advance of a very powerful force. Two of the largest class boats have just come down through the Pass. I think it will require the heaviest guns to resist them. They are now erecting land batteries with heavy guns. I have ordered three more regiments from Yazoo City to protect my flanks by preventing the crossing of Tallahatchee in my rear and reaching Yazoo in my front. Both are difficult for the enemy to do, owing to overflows. Would advise the sending of columbiads to Yazoo City. If you have a competent engineer to spare, I would like him ordered here. Dr. Voorhies arrived yesterday.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

—

HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON,
March 16, 1863—9 p. m.

The enemy, with one iron-clad covered with cotton and sides protected by cotton on raft, opened upon us at 12.30 o'clock to-day. The iron-clad retired in about forty-five minutes. The land battery kept up the fire until sunset. No loss on our side. We are unable to prevent land batteries from increasing, because we are fearful of not receiving more ammunition in time. Have ordered another raft constructed on Yazoo, opposite here, and works thrown up on other side river. If I can have one week, will effect it.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

—

FORT PEMBERTON, *March* 17, 1863—10 a. m.

Yours of 16th received. If I can hold the enemy back a week, will have another raft constructed in Yazoo River opposite this and works

thrown up on the other side. Still have strong hopes of the enemy being unable to force the obstructions here. Principal fear is that they may turn one of my flanks, particularly my left front. In order to counteract an attempt in that direction, I have ordered Brigadier-General [J. C.] Moore to move up near the point referred to with the remainder of his brigade. In accordance with your suggestion, I hope then to be able to check the enemy's force; but as heavy additions are reported being made to their force, it will take one correspondingly large to successfully meet them.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

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HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON, *March* 17, 1863.
(Received March 18.)

Up to this hour, 9 p. m., the enemy made no demonstration to-day. Got information from Panola and from scouts on Coldwater relative to the two large class boats. Have done all that could be done up to this time to intercept transports. Have given instructions to parties at Panola and up Tallahatchee, at Cassidy Bayou, to have round rafts made and floated down the river into fleet, covered with burning cotton.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

FORT PEMBERTON, *March* 18, 1863—9 a. m.

GENERAL: My information is positive that the expedition now coming against us is a most formidable one. Have made up our minds to fight it to the bitter end. You may look for nothing but a series of hardly fought battles throughout the whole length of the Yazoo. I must have all the strength here that I can possibly get. Send heavy guns and plenty of ammunition. If we had received ammunition in time, could have prevented the erection of land batteries, but, as it was, could not afford to spend our supply and leave none for their assault. At the same time, I would urge the most vigorous measures for defense of Yazoo City. Lend us and send three heavy guns and plenty of ammunition. I have ordered the guns at Yazoo City up here. Please send order to Yazoo City; also have not the cipher, and do not understand. Send also artillerists for our guns; we need them badly, and have none at all.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

—

HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON,
March 20, 1863—11 a. m.

In consequence of the crippled condition of their gunboats, the injury done to their land batteries, and, from all we can learn, their great loss of life, the enemy have commenced a precipitate retreat up the Talla-

hatchee, abandoning the position of their land batteries. I have ordered pursuit upon their rear and both flanks.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

FORT PEMBERTON, *March* 20, 1863—5 p. m.

I start a fully-clad cotton boat down to-night, keeping one here in case of accident. Enemy in full run, as fast as steam can carry him, and my men after him. This place capable of very strong defense; should be made perfect, and I have given orders to have it so. The engineer officer ordered by you has not yet reported, as the enemy is steaming away from here as fast as he can. I will, if you wish it, go to the Sunflower and stop him.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

HEADQUARTERS FORT PEMBERTON,
Near Greenwood, Miss., March 22, 1863.

MAJOR: I beg leave to submit the following report of operations on the Yazoo and Tallahatchee Rivers:

In accordance with your instructions, I left Jackson, Miss., on the morning of February 17 last, with the view to finding some suitable place on the Yazoo or Tallahatchee whereat to erect works and place obstructions to the passage down of the enemy. An examination of the two rivers from Yazoo City to 100 miles above here satisfied me that this position was the only one offering the slightest advantage for defensive works, and having previously ordered Major [Minor] Meriwether, of the engineers, to this place, determined to avail myself of its strong points. Accordingly, a line of works composed of cotton bales and earth was thrown up, extending from the Yazoo to the Tallahatchee, and a raft constructed by the able and united labors of Maj. Thomas Weldon and Mr. John McFarland, and with great skill placed in the Tallahatchee on our right. These necessary arrangements were prosecuted with the utmost diligence day and night; and notwithstanding every exertion to perfect our defenses, the enemy made his descent of the river and found us but poorly prepared to receive him.

On Wednesday (March 11), the enemy made his appearance before us with nine gunboats and twenty-four transports, a land force of 7,000 infantry and artillery. The raft in an unfinished state was hastily swung across the Tallahatchee, and the Confederate States steamer Star of the West sunk behind it. My inspector-general, Capt. John D. Myrick, was placed in command of the batteries, and we awaited the assault.

At 10 a. m. the formidable iron-clad Chillicothe steamed around the bend of the river in our front, as though it was intended to rush upon the raft and destroy it. A well-directed shell from our 32-pounder fell upon her turret, and she sensibly diminished her speed. This was followed by a solid shot from an 18-pounder rifle, which also struck, and the Chillicothe backed up stream until her hull was hidden around the bend, save her bow and that portion of her which contained the 11-inch

guns. She then opened fire, and cannonading was kept up for an hour, when the gunboat withdrew, having been struck several times by three of our guns.

At 4 o'clock in the afternoon the fight was resumed by another gunboat, which we supposed to be the iron-clad De Kalb. After two hours hard fighting, the boat withdrew. During the day, Colonel [T. N.] Waul, commanding post, sent out a detachment of his Legion as skirmishers, who engaged a large body of the enemy's infantry and cavalry and drove them back to their transports.

Thursday (the 12th), the enemy was engaged in erecting a battery upon a point in front, thickly wooded, which we could not prevent in consequence of the scarcity of ammunition.

On Friday morning, at 10 o'clock, the enemy again opened upon our works from two gunboats abreast, their land batteries, and a 13-inch mortar. We promptly responded with every gun we had in position, and the fight raged furiously the entire day, night putting an end to it.

It was in this day's engagement that an 11-inch shell from the Chillicothe passed through the parapet, displaced a cotton bale, and ignited a tub of cartridges in the magazine of the Whitworth gun. The fire was communicated by the fuse. Fortunately the shell itself did not explode. By this casualty Lieut. [J. Q.] Wall, of the Pointe Coupée Artillery, in command of the gun, was slightly [wounded], and 15 of his detachment were burned, some badly.

In this day's engagement we experienced our only loss. A shell exploded over one of our guns, wounding 3 of the gunners, one of whom died in a few hours.

Our troops labored the entire night in repairing damages to the parapet and strengthening the works.

Saturday was quiet until 4 p. m., when we were engaged by their land batteries and a gunboat spiritedly for about half an hour.

Sunday was occupied by the enemy and ourselves in adding strength to our respective works.

Monday, as we afterward discovered, was fixed by the enemy for a grand assault with their entire force upon our works. Accordingly, the gunboat Chillicothe (the other iron-clad having been disabled in Friday's engagement) got into position, bow on, at 1,200 yards range, and with their land batteries and sharpshooters the day's work began. In about twenty minutes after the engagement commenced, a shot from one of our heavy guns penetrated the Chillicothe and so badly injured her that the proposed assault was abandoned and she withdrew, leaving the land batteries and sharpshooters to keep up the fight until sunset.

Our loss during the engagement was 1 killed and 4 wounded, and 16 severely burned or injured by the explosion of our magazine. Total of casualties, 21.

A significant silence characterized their movements the three following days, although we could see them plainly at their batteries.

On Friday, before day, they abandoned their breastworks and commenced a rapid retreat up the river.

Thus was conducted the battle of the Tallahatchee.

While I am thankful for the perfectly successful result of our labors here, I wish to express my obligations to Col. T. N. Waul, Texas Legion, for his energy, promptness, and good judgment in the discharge of his duty with his Legion in the fortifications during the engagements. I was greatly indebted to him for the assistance he rendered on so many occasions, and which contributed to our frequent successes.

Col. Ashbel Smith, commanding Second Texas, in charge of the right

of our defenses, with great gallantry and skill prevented the enemy turning that flank.

Lieut. Col. W. N. Brown, commanding Twentieth Mississippi, and Capt. H. Cantey, also of the Twentieth, for important aid in collecting material for our raft while in readiness to defend the works.

Col. D. R. Russell, Twentieth Mississippi, during the last engagement, and General Tilghman subsequently (though the enemy was still in our front), rendered every possible aid. The general, in command of our left flank, kept the enemy apprehensive of their rear.

I cannot speak in too much praise of the courage, coolness, and efficiency of Capt. John D. Myrick, my aide and acting chief of artillery, not only under the fire of the enemy in battle, but at the critical moment of the explosion of our magazine. In the midst of it, when every one was appalled, he stood unfalteringly, and with great heroism rallied his men to their guns.

Captain [B. J.] Hogue, Lieuts. W. S. Wheatley, [J. Q.] Wall, and Captain [W. H.] Hedden, artillery; Sergt. E. Fullerton, of Hedden's battery; Lieutenant Moon, engineers, and Sergt. J. Hennerberry, Company A, Twenty-second Louisiana Volunteers, commanded guns, and served them with great skill and courage. Sergts. David Eaton and Hugh Moldoon, belonging to the Navy, are mentioned for their accuracy as gunners and courage as men.

Before and after the enemy appeared, the weather was inclement, and when all depended upon the greatest energy, none rendered better service or were more exposed than the following officers: Maj. George McKnight, assistant adjutant-general; Dr. [A. H.] Voorhies, chief surgeon; Captain Armstead, ordnance [officer]; Captain [Belton] Mickle, quartermaster; Major Meriwether and Captain [Powhatan] Robinson, engineers; Dr. [E.] Randall, Captains [Samuel] Carter and [B. F.] Stirling and [H.] Wickeland, and Lieutenant [Peter] Schwander, Waul's Legion.

I would here remark that this expedition was the prominent one of a great plan for the attack of Vicksburg in rear. It was to move rapidly down the Yazoo River to the mouth of Sunflower; there await another expedition down that river; the two united were to meet a third up the Yazoo; the three to force the raft at Snyder's Bluff; united, to turn Vicksburg. After many months of secret preparations, they were certain of success. With but little time to fortify, they were determinedly met and forced to an ignominious retreat, leaving behind them evidences that their loss was great in men and material—a check which will undoubtedly prevent a further invasion of the State of Mississippi by the way of Tallahatchee and Yazoo Rivers.

With respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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FORT PEMBERTON, *March* 23, 1863—4.30 p. m.

The enemy in force with their gunboats have again made their appearance, opening fire at 2.15 and immediately ceasing fire.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

General J. C. PEMBERTON.

(Same, Pemberton to Stevenson, March 24.)

FORT PEMBERTON, *April* 1, 1863.
(Received April 2.)

Enemy re-enforcing, and erecting a battery to-day of three 32-pounders.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

General J. C. PEMBERTON.

FORT PEMBERTON, *April* 2, 1863.
(Received April 3—10 a. m.)

The enemy are sending their boats to the Pass for re-enforcements. They are receiving heavy guns. Can any heavy guns be sent here?

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

General J. C. PEMBERTON.

JACKSON, *April* 3, 1863.

Major-General LORING,
Fort Pemberton, via Grenada:

I am expecting more heavy guns, but have none now to lend you.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

FORT PEMBERTON, *April* 3, 1863.

The enemy got another large re-enforcement to-day, at least 3,000. This fight, from the preparations making by the enemy, will be desperate. I therefore think we should have an additional quantity of ammunition sent at once for our guns. We are compelled to use our shot to prevent the enemy erecting batteries in our front, and I will cover the amount by requisition. Send one hundred rockets.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

FORT PEMBERTON, *April* 4, 1863.

On the 1st and 2d, seventeen transports loaded with troops came down the river, and passed a point 100 miles above; have no doubt arrived here. Can you send us intrenching tools?

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

FORT PEMBERTON, *April* 5, 1863,
(Received April 6.)

The enemy commenced embarking last night at 10 o'clock, and before day this morning were in rapid retreat, after re-enforcing yesterday 10,000 men. Having our works strengthened, we commenced shelling their camps and transports, and kept it up for two days and at intervals during the night.

Yesterday we made a reconnaissance in force from our left flank, alarming them very much. A party we have up the river, under Captain Mott, with a field piece, fired three shots into a transport loaded with troops yesterday, doing considerable damage among them, and disabling the boat. These no doubt influenced their retreat. I do not know yet how far they have gone. Will send another telegram shortly.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

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FORT PEMBERTON, *April* 6, 1863.

The enemy are moving up the Tallahatchee, toward the mouth of Coldwater. The information is not sufficient yet to make it certain that they are going to the Mississippi River. The probability is that it is their intention to do so. We are certain that our shells and shot did great execution in their crowded camps before leaving.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

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FORT PEMBERTON,
Near Greenwood, *April* 12, 1863.

MAJOR: I had the honor to make to you a report of the operations of this command up to March 22, 1863.

The enemy, after getting 100 miles up the Tallahatchee, was heavily re-enforced and returned, fully determined to make a deadly attack upon these works. During their short absence we greatly strengthened our lines, and were fully prepared to give them a warm reception. We waited a short time after their arrival, in the hope that they would muster courage to attack us, but it seems that it failed them in the critical moment. We then commenced the offensive by driving away their laboring parties from the works intended for batteries, and getting our lines of fire upon their camps and the direction of their forces for the support of their pickets.

We commenced shelling on the evening of April 2, and continued through the 3d and 4th.

In the mean time a forced reconnaissance was made from our left by General Maury. A considerable force was also displayed upon our right. While our fire was destructive to their crowded camps, our action from right to left alarmed them very much, and on the night of April 4 they commenced embarking, and by daylight they were in rapid retreat up the river. We can hear of them steaming toward the Pass. How far they have got we are not fully advised, but think that they will go entirely through to the Mississippi.

I beg leave here to mention that, in consequence of the extensive overflow of both sides of the Tallahatchee and Coldwater Rivers, it was impossible to get to the rivers, except in small canoes. Enterprising and gallant officers of this command—Col. A. E. Reynolds, Twenty-sixth Mississippi regiment, Lieutenant Henry, Second Texas, and Capt. George [W.] Mott, commanding a detachment of McCulloch's—made their boats for the purpose. The latter fortunately reached the enemy and fired upon them with small-arms, killing several, and upon one occasion fired three shots from a field piece, which was sent him, into

a transport loaded with troops, disabling the transport and doing considerable execution. I have also to mention that a party of State troops, under the command of Major Lidell, fired into them, and on several occasions our cavalry on this side of the river annoyed them. In order to strike them in the future successfully, I would recommend that large canoes be ordered. They can be readily made along the river, and guns usually used by the Navy, 6 or 12 pounders, breech-loading, be obtained for the purpose. I have no doubt that two regiments, scattered along the Tallahatchee, Coldwater, and Sunflower, under men of energy and courage, would break up any expedition the enemy might send here in future.

With respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 10.

Report of Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, C. S. Army, commanding division, &c., of operations April 1–10.

VICKSBURG, *April* 11, 1863,
(Received April 15.)

MAJOR: In pursuance of the instructions of the lieutenant-general commanding, I joined Major-General Loring, at Fort Pemberton, on the morning of April 1. He was re-enforced the same day by the whole of Featherston's brigade and six guns of my division, making his whole force ample to hold the position.

I was assigned to the command of the forces at Cureton's, constituting our left wing.

On the evening of the 1st, the enemy commenced the construction of a very heavy battery about 1,000 yards from the fort. During the 2d, 3d, and 4th, a constant fire of shells was kept up by us upon it, and sharpshooters were sent to annoy the workmen, so that they were compelled to cease work before the battery was completed. The enemy was very quiet during this whole time. He made no scouts, and only one reconnaissance, and made no reply to the fire of our guns or of our sharpshooters. Rumors came in that he was retreating.

On the 4th, I sent Colonel [O. S.] Holland, in command of a regiment and battalion of sharpshooters, with orders to discover the force and position of the enemy. He drove in his pickets, and discovered him still in force in his position on the Tallahatchee. As the enemy formed his line to receive Holland's attack, a heavy fire was opened upon him by the fort, which occasioned considerable annoyance and some loss. That night and next morning the enemy re-embarked his army and retreated. During the 6th, 7th, and 8th, my scouts reported him still retreating, and as having entered the Coldwater River.

The operations of the enemy were characterized by a great want of energy, but by the usual disregard of the claims of humanity and of the usages of manly warfare; women and unarmed, helpless men were insulted, private dwellings and plantations were destroyed and plundered, the stock stolen or wantonly killed, the fruit trees belted, and every other means taken to gratify the cowardly instincts of base natures.

The position of the enemy was such that it was not possible to make an attack upon him with any hope of success. His force was estimated at about 12,000 men.

On the 8th instant, I was informed by Major-General Loring that my services were no longer required near Fort Pemberton, and that I might, in compliance with the instructions of the lieutenant-general commanding, return at once to Vicksburg.

I reached Haynes' Bluff yesterday at 1 p. m., bringing with me Holland's regiment and [W. N.] Hogg's battery.

I remain, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DABNEY H. MAURY,
Major-General.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 11.

Report of Capt. Isaac N. Brown, C. S. Navy.

CAMP PEMBERTON,
Tallahatchee River, March 10, 1863. (Received March 12.)

GENERAL: I have to send the little steamer Saint Mary's to Yazoo City, and probably to Snyder's Mill, and General Loring does not send dispatches, from the fact, I believe, of the steamer Sharp's having been ordered down, and which may in fact get ahead of the Saint Mary's.

The enemy in great force are near our works, and will attack perhaps early to-morrow.

It has been raining hard for two days here, which made it very unfavorable for us.

I think, from what I can learn, that twenty-five or more transports and six or more gunboats will be within 5 miles of us to-night. I have but two boats—the Keene and Magenta. I went up the river two days ago on the Parallel (steamer), to get cotton to finish the Magenta. When up 70 miles, I found myself near the enemy, and shifted to the Saint Mary's, to remain and make observations, sending the steamer Parallel ahead. The latter, from the extreme narrowness of the stream, ran into the woods and disabled herself, so that, to save falling into the hands of the enemy, I ordered her burned, which was done as the enemy came in sight.

I have never been well pleased with our position here, but hope that we may not have to regret taking it up, rather than concentrating our whole force at Yazoo City.

I beg pardon for trespassing so far on General Loring's department as to speak to you of military matters about which I presume he gives you much more full information than I could do. I have done my utmost against most incomprehensible difficulties to fit out the cotton-clad fleet. The cotton was not on the banks of the river, and the state of the country from overflow prevented hauling it. Besides, I could not get the proper boats for the Tallahatchee for reasons already made known in my late letter to you.

I am, very respectfully,

ISAAC N. BROWN,
Commanding, C. S. Navy.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON.

FEBRUARY 27, 1863.—Skirmish near Bloomington, on the Hatchie River, Tenn.

Report of Brig. Gen. Alexander Asboth, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF COLUMBUS,
March 2, 1863.

GENERAL: Colonel Wolfe, commanding at Fort Pillow, reports that Captain Moore, Second Illinois Cavalry, reached, on the 27th ultimo, at daybreak, with 200 mounted [men], the principal camp of the rebel Colonel [R. V.] Richardson, in the neighborhood of Bloomington, on the Hatchie. The rebels, however, started on the previous day to the southeast, leaving only 8 men to guard the camp and collect conscripts. This guard was taken, with all the property in their charge, 27 horses and mules, wagons and commissary stores, and the camp, with several large buildings and comfortable quarters, entirely destroyed.

ASBOTH,
Brigadier-General.

Major-General HURLBUT,
Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps, Memphis.

MARCH 2–3, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Hudsonville and Salem, Miss., and Saulsbury, Tenn.

Report of Maj. William D. Blackburn, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *March* 3, 1863.

COLONEL: In obedience to orders from Colonel Grierson, I started on the morning of the 2d, with the First Battalion of this regiment, consisting of 140 men and 5 commissioned officers, on the Holly Springs road, to Old Lamar, thence to the neighborhood of Early Grove, thence to Hudsonville, thence to near Salem, where we staid all night with Mr. Hall, a wealthy "secesh." In the morning passed through Salem to near Wolf River; found the bridge gone, and had to turn up to McDowell's Mill to cross; found the "rebs" thick from Salem to Wolf, but in small squads and as wild as ducks; distributed the force in all directions, and had plenty of chases, a good many shots, and a few captures, as hereafter described. From Wolf we went to near Saulsbury; found nothing; thence, by Bob Smith's place, down on the north side of Wolf, to camp. A description of the persons, with the papers captured on them, is herewith inclosed.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. D. BLACKBURN,
Major, Commanding Detachment.

Colonel PRINCE.

[Indorsement.]

List of prisoners, with papers found on the persons of the prisoners, sent to provost-marshal's office.

J. B. HARRIS,
Major.

MARCH 8–12, 1863.—Expedition from La Grange, and skirmishes (9th and 10th) near Covington, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, Sixteenth Army Corps.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Reuben Loomis, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.
No. 3.—Col. Edward Prince, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.
No. 4.—Col. R. V. Richardson, First Tennessee Partisan Rangers.

No. 1.

Report of Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, Sixteenth Army Corps.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *March* 16, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In accordance with verbal instructions from General Hamilton, I left camp on the 8th instant, with 900 men of the Sixth and Seventh Illinois Cavalry, on an expedition against Richardson and his command. When within about 3 miles of Somerville, our advance came upon a party of rebels, who immediately fled. Encamping here for the night, I sent one company of the Seventh Illinois in pursuit of the enemy, and succeeded in wounding 4 and capturing 1 man and 2 horses. Here I received information of the removal of Richardson's camp, which was confirmed by a communication which I also received from scouts whom I had previously sent out to go into his camp.

On the 9th, at 3 a. m., I proceeded northwest, making a forced march of 35 miles in seven hours, over roads almost impassable from the recent heavy rains. We came upon him on Big Creek, 3 miles southeast of Covington, attacked and completely routed him, killing 22, wounding and capturing over 70, among whom were Captains Cobb and Cushman; also taking and destroying his camp and equipage, commissary and quartermaster's stores, his train, ammunition, and records. I find among the latter over two hundred paroles of Federal soldiers, all his muster-rolls, lists of conscripts, letters, and receipts, giving the names of a number of citizens who have been engaged in smuggling arms, ammunition, and equipments from Memphis and other points for the enemy; also some valuable maps of the country between the Memphis and Charleston Railroad and the Hatchie River. We scoured the country thoroughly in the vicinity of the Hatchie and Covington [Rivers]; also south toward Portersville.

On the 10th, I moved southeast to Mason's Depot, whence a detachment of the Second Brigade, under Lieutenant-Colonel Wallace, of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, reported to me, and whom I ordered to scout the country southwest toward Galloway, Smith's, and Wythe Depot. I encamped near Belmont on the night of the 10th, and 4 miles south of Somerville on the 11th, returning to this place on the 12th, about 2 p. m. I have the satisfaction to report the success of the expedition, having lost none killed or wounded, and but 4 prisoners, who have since returned, paroled.

Respectfully,

B. H. GRIERSON,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

[Indorsement.]

LA GRANGE, *March* 17, 1863.

Capt. R. M. SAWYER,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

Respectfully forwarded. The conduct of Colonel Grierson and his command is to be highly commended.

C. S. HAMILTON,
Major-General.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. Reuben Loomis, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *March* 15, 1863.

COLONEL: In pursuance of your order of the 7th, I had my command, 500 in number, in the saddle at 9.30 o'clock of the 8th, and started on the Somerville road; camped 3 miles this side of Somerville. By your order we started at 3 a. m. for Richardson's camp, about 30 miles north of Somerville, which we reached about 12 o'clock of the same day. Found the enemy drawn up in line in a dense wood and swamp, ready to give us battle. We attacked them vigorously, by your order, broke their [line], which they in vain repeatedly tried to form. We drove them steadily forward for 5 or 6 miles, finally breaking them up and scattering them in every direction. We killed some 15 or 16, as I afterward ascertained, wounded a large number, captured their train with all their stores, also some 15 or 16 prisoners, to the best of my recollection, among whom was Captain Cobb and a lieutenant.

Officers and men behaved with great gallantry, without a single exception, not only risking the balls of the enemy, but in leaping fences, ditches, logs, and swamps of all depths of mud and water.

Colonel, hoping what we have done may meet your approbation, I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. LOOMIS,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Col. B. H. GRIERSON,
Commanding First Cavalry Brigade.

No. 3.

Report of Col. Edward Prince, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *March* 12, 1863.

SIR: I report that, in pursuance of orders of the brigadier-general commanding, I moved, in command of this regiment, the first day in advance of the brigade, starting from La Grange, Tenn., at 9.30 a. m., March 8, 1863. The rest of the time the regiment marched in rear of the Sixth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Cavalry, and consequently participated but little in the gallant engagement with the enemy. By order of the colonel commanding the brigade, Company H, of this regiment, destroyed the camp and garrison equipage of Colonel Richardson, First Regiment Tennessee Guerrillas, consisting, in part, of fifty tents, ammunition, quartermaster's and commissary stores, and the entire regi-

mental property at the camp near Covington, Tenn. On approaching Somerville, I sent forward Company A, of this regiment, to make a feint, and, meeting with a squad of rebel cavalry, they captured 1 in a charge upon the town.

In leaving the camp of Richardson, near Covington, Major Nelson, commanding the First Battalion, this regiment, detached a squad of men for the purpose of ascertaining the truth of a report that a Federal horse and saddle was some 2 miles from camp. They proceeded, and, 8 in number, encountered 26 of the rebels, under the command of Captain Cushman, who had cut them off entirely from the main body. The gallant little squad charged the rebels, severely wounded the captain in the arm, killed 1 lieutenant ([Thos. J.] Ray), and captured and brought off a prisoner. I desire to mention the names of the party for their gallant conduct, as follows: Sergt. Charles C. Hays, Corpl. David B. Spencer, Privates [Peter S.] Traphagen, [Joseph D.] Brown, Neff, [Edward W.] Tift, [William T.] Handly, and [William] Potter, all of Company K, this regiment.

On March 10, I detailed Company F, this regiment, to endeavor to ascertain where certain wagons had been secreted, the tracks of which had been followed from Richardson's camp. Captain McDonald, Company F, this regiment, being at the head of his company, came near a house, and observed several men (some mounted and some on foot) fleeing from the house. Being well mounted, he gave chase, and, by the spirit and activity of his horse, had left behind him and had distanced his company some 300 yards. Having lost his fire-arms the preceding day, he was fired at five times at very close range by the rebel he engaged, who was armed with both revolver and musket. The captain pursued with his only weapon (the saber), and, with a blow, dismounted his enemy, but was at the same moment caught by a limb and himself dismounted. He, however, pursued on foot and captured his prisoner. He deserves great praise for his bravery and gallantry. At this time and place was captured Captain Cushman and squad. The regiment captured some 20 prisoners, horses, and other property.

Respectfully, yours,

EDWARD PRINCE,
Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Lieutenant WOODWARD,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 4.

Report of Col. R. V. Richardson, First Tennessee Partisan Rangers.

FAYETTE COUNTY, TENNESSEE, *March* 13, 1863.

DEAR SIR: * * * On the 9th instant,* the Sixth and Seventh Illinois Cavalry, with a six-gun battery, attacked my position in Tipton County, 2 miles from Covington, at the Lemmon woods; at the same time a heavy cavalry force was advancing on me from Collierville (but did not reach the scene of action); in all, about 2,000 men.

The action commenced at 12 m., and lasted for two hours, when we were forced to retire from the field. My men engaged did not exceed

* Portion of report omitted above relates to organization of the regiment and skirmish, January 11, at Lowry's Ferry, Tenn. See Series I, Vol. XVII, Part I, p. 797.

150, while the enemy had actually engaged about 1,000 men and his battery of six pieces. We charged the enemy twice and repelled one charge from him, when, finding ourselves about to be flanked on both sides, we yielded the field.

Our loss was 2 men killed and 5 wounded. The enemy admitted a loss of 7 killed, 6 wounded, and 20 prisoners. We lost 8 men taken as prisoners. Some small proportion of my men ingloriously fled the field, but generally my companies fought bravely and retired in good order.

I desire especially to mention Captains [R.] Burrow, [J. H.] Hazlewood, [W. A.] Bell, [J. H.] Hicks, and [J. S.] Caruthers, who distinguished themselves for courage; also Lieut. Col. James U. Green and Maj. Berry [B.] Benson, for coolness and courage in the midst of all the circumstances.

The enemy captured a portion of our train, &c., valued at about $4,000. We are consoled, however, in this by the reflection that we had taken it in former conflicts from him. I retreated about 7 miles; encamped all night.

Next morning as I left my camp I came on the enemy, commanded by Colonel [Albert L.] Lee, of the Seventh Kansas [Cavalry], and another regiment, who had been marching on me from Collierville, with a view to surround me and crush my command in the folds of a vastly superior force. A slight skirmish ensued, which availed for all my purposes, when I escaped from the nearly completed circle designed for my destruction. Finding myself unable to meet the numbers pressing upon me on three sides, I ordered my companies upon detached service, and threw out squads, under efficient officers, to harass and annoy the enemy on every hand. He soon lost the track of my regiment, and found himself surrounded by small bands, annoying him in every possible way. He remained but three days, when he retired to his posts at La Grange, Collierville, and Memphis.

During the time (about five months) in which I have been enlisting and organizing my regiment, we have killed about 50 of the enemy, have wounded about 100, and paroled about 700 men.

I believe that a force of 5,000 men can be raised in West Tennessee for the defense of this part of the State through the operations of the conscript law. My command is probably the first and only regiment of partisan rangers organized in Tennessee within the enemy's lines. It is a nucleus around which a larger force may be gathered. In West Tennessee there are large supplies, enough for the sustenance of an army sufficient to defend the country. These are lost to the cause unless a force is raised to defend the country. Here also are horses and mules; these are taken by the enemy whenever he makes a raid. My lines, now limited north by the Big Hatchie, might be extended north, and thus reach a region of country where there are many soldiers away from their commands and many conscripts. I suggest, would it not be well enough to encourage the raising of partisan corps within the enemy's lines, and thus avail yourself of a class of men now rendering no service to their country? I have made out a requisition for articles needed, and hope you will approve it and supply us as soon as practicable. Captain Harrison and Lieutenant [N.] McMullen will give all desirable information as to my wants and the exigencies of the service in this region.

Very respectfully,

R. V. RICHARDSON,

Col., Comdg. First Tennessee Regt. Partisan Rangers, C. S. A.

General [BRAXTON] BRAGG.

MARCH 8–12, 1863.—Expedition from Collierville, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Martin R. M. Wallace, Fourth Illinois Cavalry.

COLLIERVILLE, TENN., *March* 12, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that at 9.30 a. m., March 9, 1863, in pursuance of orders from brigade headquarters, dated Headquarters Second Brigade, Cavalry Division, March 8, 1863, I took 210 men of the Seventh Kansas Cavalry and 170 of the Fourth Illinois Cavalry, and proceeded west from Little's Bridge, on Wolf River (about 3 miles west of this place), northeast through Fisherville to the Memphis and Somerville stage road, where we met 5 of the enemy's cavalry, who fled at our approach; thence along that road over the Cypress Levee to about 2 miles east of that place, then turned to the left and proceeded to a little village called Wythe Depot, and fed the command. While there, one of the troopers, who had been placed on picket, left his post and rode to a house near by, for the purpose of (he said) taking prisoner a couple of Richardson's men he had heard were there eating dinner; he was himself taken prisoner, and is now in camp with his parole. Several shots were fired at the guard in the road while at this place. From thence we proceeded in a northwesterly direction to Jackson's Mills, on the Loosahatchee; captured near the river 1 of Richardson's men. Here a very unfortunate circumstance occurred. A man by name of Forbes being near the road, and seeing my flankers coming through his field, armed himself, and on approach of two of the flankers to the house, and being ordered by them to come out, refused to do so, but immediately fired, cutting the carbine belt and riddling the overcoat of one of the soldiers; he then ran to another house and refused to come out. My men burst the door open, and rushed in, firing up-stairs at him (he having gone there), and he in turn firing at them. One man of Company E, Fourth Illinois Cavalry, fell, in the house, badly wounded. and one of Company B fell, mortally wounded, and since died. The soldiers immediately set the house on fire; this brought Forbes out. When I rode up it was hardly possible to save the house; it might probably have been done if we had nothing else to do. The first words spoken by Forbes were, "Oh, gentlemen, I am mistaken," and from that time protested he was a Union man. He was severely wounded in the right arm. We left him at his house (being unable to travel). The evidence is overwhelming that he is a genuine Union man.

After disposing of the dead and wounded, I proceeded with the command to Galloway Station, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, about 25 miles from this place by the road we traveled, not being able to communicate with Colonel Grierson as yet.

At daylight on the morning of the 10th instant, I proceeded on the road north to Concordia. Here I learned that Colonel Grierson, of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry, had, at about 10 o'clock on the day previous, surprised Richardson in his camp, and, after a fight of about twenty minutes, Richardson and his men fled, leaving their camp an easy prey, which he wholly destroyed. I immediately sent a party to communicate with him, and his reply was, he did not know I was out, and I might do what I thought proper. I also sent a party back to Jackson's Mills to pick up the wounded man and bring him to camp.

I proceeded with the balance of the command west on Fort Randolph road, and after traveling about 2 miles, and just entering the bottom of East Beaver Dam Creek, I ran on to a squad of Richardson's men. The advanced guard, under Lieutenant [James] Smith, Company C, Seventh

Kansas Cavalry, engaged them, and drove them rapidly along the road. I immediately ordered forward Company A, Seventh Kansas, to the support of Lieutenant Smith, and they pursued the flying rebels, taking several prisoners. When I reached the edge of the bottom with the head of the column, I found the main body of the rebels had left the road, turning south. I then ordered back the advance, and took the trail of the main body, and followed them into the swamp of Beaver Dam Bottom until they had scattered to the four winds of heaven. From the best information I could gather, I think there were about 100 in the party when we first met them.

The rain came down in torrents all day, and made the bottoms and swamps very difficult to pass over. After becoming satisfied that Richardson's forces were well scattered, I turned back, and proceeded to near Galloway Station, the place where I encamped the night previous, thence to the Brownsville and Memphis road, thence southwest toward Memphis, Tenn., and crossed the Loosahatchee near the house of Captain [J. H.] Murry (of Richardson's command), near Wythe Station, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

After passing Wythe about 1½ miles, the advance guard came upon a negro picket, who ran upon our approach to the house of General Hayes, at present occupied by his son, A. J. Hayes. The advance promptly moved up and surrounded the buildings on the plantation, but some of the birds had flown. Col. Robert F. Looney (called Brigadier-General Looney), formerly colonel of the Thirty-eighth Tennessee Infantry; Maj. R. A. Sanford, formerly of said regiment, and Capt. David Bright, all fled, but were overtaken and captured by the promptness of the advance. After securing the prisoners, I encamped the command on the plantation.

At daylight on the morning of the 11th instant, I moved about 1 mile to the southwest, toward Memphis, crossing Clear Creek at that place, then in a southeasterly direction toward Morning Sun, on the Missouri State road to Fisherville, thence to Little's Bridge, on Wolf River. Here I divided the command, sending the Seventh Kansas with the prisoners, under Major Merriman, of that regiment, to Germantown, with orders to report to Col. A. L. Lee, commanding brigade, and with the Fourth Illinois Cavalry came into camp at this place.

The following is a list of prisoners, with rank, taken on this expedition: Col. Robert F. Looney, Thirty-eighth Tennessee Infantry, commanding Partisan Rangers; R. A. Sanford, first lieutenant and adjutant Thirty-eighth Tennessee Infantry; Capt. David Bright, Company K, Eighteenth Mississippi Infantry.*

* * * * * * *

Colonel Looney professes to have been sent here for the purpose of investigating the complaints of citizens against Richardson and his command. I have talked with several citizens, and they all say that he is here for the purpose of recruiting and organizing a cavalry brigade in Western Tennessee. I am not prepared to determine the truth of the statement.

Where all acted cheerfully and bravely, it would be invidious to discriminate.

Respectfully submitted.

M. R. M. WALLACE,
Lieut. Col., Comdg. Detachment 2d Brigade, Cavalry Division.

Lieut. J. H. PARKER, *Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

* The names of 9 men omitted.

MARCH 10–16, 1863.—Scout to La Fayette and Moscow, Tenn., and skirmish.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Lieut. Col. Thomas P. Herrick, Seventh Kansas Cavalry.
No. 2.—Lieut. W. J. Floyd, Peach Creek (Confederate) Rangers.

No. 1.

Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas P. Herrick, Seventh Kansas Cavalry.

CAMP ON MOUNT PLEASANT AND EARLY GROVE ROAD,
March 16, 1863.

GENERAL: On arriving at Mount Pleasant, this afternoon, I found that the enemy had taken the Moscow road, probably with the design of attacking a forage train from that direction to-morrow. I followed them rapidly, and about 5.30 p. m. came up with 3 pickets. I immediately charged at a gallop, in front and on both flanks, hoping to find them unprepared either for a fight or a run. They had halted to feed at a point on the Mount Pleasant and Moscow road, where two roads diverge, one to the northeast and the other south. On coming in, found them already in the saddle. They did not stop to fire even a single volley, but fled in confusion on both roads toward the south, and rapidly scattered into the timber and fields. We pursued them at the best speed of our horses for 5 miles, when darkness came on, and we were obliged to relinquish the chase. The result, so far as I have been able to learn, is 3 killed, 3 wounded, and 6 prisoners; the rest scattered—God only knows where. This command numbered 150 men, under [W. R.] Mitchell and Floyd; the latter force from the neighborhood of Yazoo Pass. I learned that about 100 of the same force crossed Coldwater, southward, last night, after the fight with Major [Mindret] Wemple. I shall cross Coldwater at an early hour to-morrow morning and try to find them. No one hurt on our side, and the men spoiling for a fight.

MORNING, 17TH.

I crossed Coldwater at an early hour this morning, at Alexandria's Mills. I met Colonel Prince with detachment of three different regiments. He had been to Hudsonville, thence down south side of Coldwater. I have scoured the country south and west to Queen's Mills. Nothing important has occurred. Captain Utt had a long chase after 25 rebels, but their horses were too good. The entire force which attacked Major Wemple is now far south of Coldwater, except about 26, who are between here and railroad. I shall try and find them, and expect to be in camp to-night.

Respectfully,

T. P. HERRICK,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. A. L. LEE.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. W. J. Floyd, Peach Creek (Confederate) Rangers.

HEADQUARTERS,
Peach Creek, Miss., March 27, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that on the 10th instant I left camp with 47 men.

The 15th found us near the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, in the

northeast corner of Marshall County. Here we encamped for the night. About nightfall I took 15 men, and pressing a guide made my [way] northward to La Fayette Depot. When we arrived within three-fourths of a mile of the depot, we dismounted, leaving the main road. We proceeded on foot, and within 300 yards of the depot crossed the railroad and moved in the direction of some camp fires, supposed to be pickets. When we had arrived within 100 yards of them, we halted. I took 1 man, and advanced near enough to find the exact position and strength of the enemy. I found one company of men intrenched, or inside their fortifications, in the shape of a half-moon, built of logs and dirt. I threw my men in line, and marched up in the rear of this place and within 25 or 30 paces of its mouth before we were halted. I had selected some men to fire upon the pickets so soon as we were halted by them. This was well executed. We then rushed up and poured in a volley of buckshot while the enemy were getting over their breastworks.

We learned from a reliable source that the enemy's loss was 10 killed and wounded and several missing. We sustained no loss, a few balls passing through some of the men's clothing.

We fell back to our horses and made our way back to camp about sunrise. After stopping two or three hours, we started in the direction of Moscow. We fell in with Captain Mitchell, who had about 50 men. At noon we halted to feed, and about 4 o'clock were attacked by the Seventh Kansas Cavalry. We exchanged a few shots with them and fell back. The enemy had sent three companies on our left and two on our right to cut off our retreat. They captured 6 men of our rear guard, viz, J. H. Jones, J. N. McLeod, Adolphus Motley, Samuel Johnson, J. W. Ward, and P. B. Waldraup. We had 1 man wounded slightly and 1 horse killed.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. J. FLOYD,

Lieutenant, Commanding Peach Creek Rangers,

(Company H, 18th Battalion Mississippi Cavalry).

Brig. Gen. JAMES R. CHALMERS.

MARCH 14–27, 1863.—The Steele's Bayou Expedition (to Rolling Fork, Miss., by Muddy, Steele's, and Black Bayous and Deer Creek), with skirmishes (21st and 22d) on Deer Creek and (24th and 25th) on Black Bayou.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. David Stuart, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

No. 3.—Col. Giles A. Smith, Eighth Missouri Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

No. 4.—Col. George B. Hoge, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry.

No. 5.—Col. Thomas Kilby Smith, Fifty-fourth Ohio Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

No. 6.—Lieut. Col. Americus V. Rice, Fifty-seventh Ohio Infantry, commanding regiment and Second Brigade.

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* For reports of Actg. Rear-Admiral David D. Porter and Lieut. Commanders James P. Foster, Watson Smith, and John G. Walker, U. S. Navy, see Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

No. 7.—Col. Hamilton N. Eldridge, One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry.
No. 8.—Capt. Benjamin H. Myers, Eighty-third Indiana Infantry.
No. 9.—Lieut. Col. Cyrus W. Fisher, Fifty-fourth Ohio Infantry.
No. 10.—Capt. John McClure, Fifty-seventh Ohio Infantry.
No. 11.—Brig. Gen. Hugh Ewing, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.
No. 12.—Lieut. Col. Theodore Jones, Thirtieth Ohio Infantry.
No. 13.—Col. Edward Siber, Thirty-seventh Ohio Infantry.
No. 14.—Col. Augustus C. Parry, Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry.
No. 15.—Col. Joseph A. J. Lightburn, Fourth West Virginia Infantry.
No. 16.—Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding district.
No. 17.—Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, C. S. Army, commanding division.
No. 18.—Brig. Gen. Winfield S. Featherston, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 19.—Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.
No. 20.—Col. Samuel W. Ferguson, C. S. Army, commanding detachment.

No. 1.

Reports of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS,
Deer Creek, March 16, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I came up Steele's Bayou and overtook the fleet of iron-clads just before they reached Deer Creek. Four of them have gone up Deer Creek to Rolling Fork Cut-off, thence into Sunflower, thence into Yazoo, just below Yazoo City. The Louisville remains here, but goes up the moment I can get a guard through to this point. Deer Creek is not as large nor has it as much current as I expected, but the water is deep and narrow. The iron-clads push their way along unharmed, but the trees and overhanging limbs tear the wooden boats all to pieces. I found the Diligent nearly up to the fleet, and they have been at work to-day, but most of the time were engaged in collecting rafts whereon to stand whilst cutting trees. I don't think any boat can as yet come through this Black Bayou, but I will push the work.

There is no high land here, nor is the route practicable for troops unless the admiral cleans out the Yazoo and secures the mouth of Deer Creek, when I might use Deer Creek as the route for a diverting force. The main attack on Haynes' Bluff must be in larger boats, directly up the main Yazoo. None but my small boats can navigate Deer Creek. I don't think we can make a lodgment on high land by this route, on account of the difficulty of navigation.

The admiral wants me to hold this place secure for him whilst he operates above, and I will undertake it. We are only 25 miles by land from Haynes' Bluff, but I don't apprehend they will do worse than send a party up to ascertain our strength and purposes. One brigade (Giles A. Smith's) is as much as should be sent here till the trees are cut away.

The plantation here is not more than 3 feet above water, and is the same kind of ground we have on the Mississippi.

I send the Diligent back, having landed the Eighth Missouri here, and arranged for bringing it through the bayou in a coal-barge towed by a tug.

Colonel Ihrie will describe the topographical features of this locality.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Camp at intersection of Black Bayou and Deer Creek, Miss.,
March 21, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in pursuance of Major-General Grant's instructions of the 15th instant, I ordered the Eighth Missouri, Lieutenant-Colonel Coleman in command, with 50 pioneers, to embark on the steamer Diligent, and to proceed with all dispatch up the Yazoo, and clean out the channel leading thence up Steele's Bayou.

This party subsequently received instructions to follow the admiral up Steele's Bayou to the Big Black, and proceed to clear it of overhanging trees, and in person I repaired on board the flag-ship Black Hawk, and at daylight on the morning of the 16th, in the tug Fern, I followed, overtook the Diligent in Steele's Bayou, and passed on and overtook the fleet of gunboats just as they were entering Deer Creek.

There I met Admiral Porter, with whom in a tug I proceeded up about 3 miles to Fore's plantation, and returned to this point. My orders were to see as to the practicability of moving my corps from Young's Point to some tenable position on the main land east of the Yazoo, from which to operate against Vicksburg and the Yazoo forts at Haynes' Bluff. Admiral Porter proposed to move up Deer Creek to the Rolling Fork, thence into Sunflower, and so on to the Yazoo, below Yazoo City, and he first proposed to leave one gunboat, the Louisville, at this point, and to reconnoiter with the other four and the tugs.

I was to remain here till he went above. The same night, Monday, he sent orders back for the Louisville to follow, whereupon I disembarked the Eighth Missouri at this point as a guard, and set the pioneers to work in cleaning away the trees and brush in Black Bayou. This is about 4 miles long, narrow, crooked, and filled with trees.

The heavy iron-clads could force their way through, pressing aside the bushes and trees, but the transports could not follow. The Eighth Missouri passed through on a coal-barge, drawn by a navy tug. Other pioneers and negroes have been sent up by Major-General Grant, among them two companies of Colonel Bissell's regiment, all of whom are busy, and have so far progressed in their work that yesterday the Eagle and Silver Wave came up far enough to land two regiments, viz, the Sixth Missouri and the One hundred and sixteenth Illinois, at the first ground above water from the Yazoo to this point. They have backed out and gone down to Eagle Bend for more troops.

On Tuesday, in a tug, I reconnoitered up Steele's Bayou to see if I could reach the Rolling Fork by that route, but found it utterly impracticable for a small tug, much less a transport. All the country on both sides was deep under water. I next examined the left fork up to and beyond the Tallulah Bridge, but the bridge is swept away and the road deep under water. Indeed, all the country bordering Steele's Bayou is submerged swamp. Satisfied that the only dry land in this climate was to be found here on Deer Creek, I returned, and renewed the orders to push the work in clearing out Black Bayou.

Learning that General Stuart's division, of my corps, had been sent up to the Muddy Bayou, I proceeded down on Thursday to see what progress they were making in getting across to Steele's Bayou, and found the division there, with two regiments, the Sixth Missouri and One hundred and sixteenth Illinois, embarked in the Silver Wave, which started out, and General Stuart accompanied me. Our tug broke her rudder, and in the night carried away the smoke-stack, which disabled her all day yesterday; but she is now repaired, and will be used in towing an empty coal-barge freighted with soldiers as they arrive.

On my way up, I met a messenger from Admiral Porter,* reporting continued obstructions in his way, and that in the end he would want 10,000 men to hold the country, that he might remove the obstructions. I wrote him at once of the delays in getting forward men to this point, and that it was a physical impossibility for us to reach his boats with anything like that force, but I would hurry up the troops of Stuart's † division to this point,† which is really the first high, or, rather, dry ground. But it does not fulfill any of General Grant's conditions, for we cannot reach the Yazoo from this point by land or water. I sent you Admiral Porter's letter by General Stuart.

About 3 a. m. to-day I received another letter from Admiral Porter, telling me that he was still in Deer Creek, and that his passage was obstructed by the enemy, and asked me to hurry up to co-operate. But as the great bulk of my corps is still behind, it would be improper for me to pass beyond all reach of them, and I have accordingly sent up Col. Giles A. Smith, with all of his brigade now up, with orders to march up the east bank of Deer Creek to the gunboats. He got off about daylight, and has 21 miles to march. The admiral is, doubtless, concerned for the safety of his gunboats, and with propriety.

Deer Creek is a narrow, sluggish stream, full of willow bushes and overhanging trees, through which nothing but keel boats have usually plied. His iron-clads move like snails, but with great power, forcing all saplings and bushes and drift aside, but the channel is useless to us in a military way. It cannot be used at this present stage of water. Its banks are usually from 1 to 3 feet above water, and the road keeps upon the river bank a natural levee. There are a series of well-improved plantations the whole distance, and provisions are abundant; that is, cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry. The wagon road will be useless at this season, as the wheels would cut to the hubs in the damp, low places, on which troops can march very well. If we want to operate along this narrow strip of land, of course the creek must be used to carry all articles of ammunition or subsistence other than what the men have on their backs.

My own impression is that the enemy have so obstructed Rolling Fork Bayou that it will be absolutely impassable to the admiral's fleet, and it will be a difficult and dangerous task to withdraw it safely back to Steele's Bayou and deep, navigable water. He must go through to Rolling Fork to turn his boats, but I understand the fleet is now within a mile of Rolling Fork. I will bring forward Stuart's division as fast as possible, and get it here, and it may be prudent to send Steele's division to the same point, that we may have a force sufficient for any possible contingency.

I have heard some considerable cannonading above this morning, which was doubtless from the gunboats, but it ceased after about an hour. I suppose the admiral was shelling the channel to protect his working parties. The enemy has a quicker route to reach Rolling Fork than we. Their boats can go from Yazoo City or Haynes' Bluff directly up the Sunflower, which is a large, good stream, and Rolling Fork is only 7 miles long, and I understand the levee along it is continuous and above water. To reach this point, which is 21 miles from the fleet, we have to disembark at Muddy Bayou, march across to Steele's, ferry up 28 miles to the mouth of Black Bayou, and again transfer to a coal-barge, and tow up about 2 miles before we find the first land. Thence to this point is 2½ miles, and 21 up to the fleet. We were not and are

* See Addenda, p. 436. † See inclosure to Featherston's report of March 21, p. 457.

not prepared to move troops in this way, but I will keep everything moving as fast as I can, but you know the difficulty of managing detached boats in small, crooked streams, where overhanging boughs and submerged trees obstruct their progress at every quarter of a mile.

The three regiments which have gone up to the admiral ought to reach him about 5 p. m., and if I can possibly get the Second Brigade up to-day or to-night, I will also send them forward, as they will cover the advance of the fleet; but, so far as accomplishing the original object, viz, finding a practicable point on the east bank of the Yazoo whereon to disembark my corps, I pronounce it impossible by any channel communicating with Steele's Bayou. If the fleet pushes beyond Rolling Fork, we can hold that point or this, and thereby enable the admiral to use his whole fleet. The Price is still in Steele's Bayou, and cannot pass through Black Bayou. Captain [Selim D.] Woodworth, her commander, expects the wooden gunboat Linden every hour, and thinks she can pass to this point. I only have the Eagle and Silver Wave to ferry troops up from Muddy Bayou, and expect the Diligent up every hour—she is past due—and will set her to work at once in bringing up men.

I take it for granted the five iron-clad gunboats can fight anything that can be brought against them, and land forces are only needed to cover the ground, to enable them to clean out obstructions.

If you want me to hold Deer Creek country, please so order it, and also how far you want me to proceed.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

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HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Camp, before Vicksburg, March 29, 1863.

SIR: I had the honor to report to you the result of my observations on the projected route to the Yazoo, by way of Steele's Bayou, up to the 21st of March. On that day I was at Hill's plantation, on Deer Creek, where Black Bayou enters it, and had sent forward to Admiral Porter all the troops then with me, viz, the Sixth and Eighth Missouri and One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois, under the command of Col. Giles A. Smith, with orders to march up the east bank of Deer Creek to the vicinity of Rolling Fork, and there report to Admiral Porter.

At that time the admiral had advanced up Deer Creek with five iron-clads, but before reaching Rolling Fork had found the creek so full of growing trees and willows that his progress was slower than he had calculated, and the enemy had begun further to obstruct his progress by felling trees in the channel and firing from ambush on his working parties when exposed on the decks or on the banks of the stream. I had, at his call, sent forward every man then with me, and had put in motion all my steamboats to bring forward more troops from Eagle Bend.

By night three steamboat loads had arrived at the foot of Black Bayou, and were transferred to the first visible ground above water, at a point on the south shore of Black Bayou, about 1½ miles from its mouth and 2½ miles from Hill's plantation. I conducted them through

the dense canebrake, by lighted candles, up to the plantation that night, and on the next morning (March 22), without means of transportation or other facilities, save what we carried on our persons, we marched over the same road which had been traveled by Colonel Smith.

These troops were the battalion of the Thirteenth Regulars and the One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry, being the remainder of Col. Giles A. Smith's brigade, and the Eighty-third Indiana, One hundred and sixteenth Illinois, Fifty-fourth and Fifty-seventh Ohio, commanded by the senior officer present, Lieutenant-Colonel Rice, of the Fifty-seventh Ohio.

Having reason to believe, from the sound of artillery in the direction of the fleet, the enemy to be in force near the gunboats, we hastened forward, and shortly after noon came to a detachment of the Eighth Missouri, stationed at Indian Mound, to prevent the enemy from felling trees in Deer Creek to the rear of the fleet, and about 3 p. m. our advance guard, under the command of Captain [Edward C.] Washington, came in contact with the enemy.

Our arrival was very opportune, and the two leading battalions pushed the enemy along the swamp in rear of the plantation fields that bordered Deer Creek for about 2 miles, and until they were to the north and rear of the gunboat fleet. In person I pushed along the bayou road till I met Colonel Smith coming down to interpose between this same party and his outlying detachment.

As soon as possible I communicated with the admiral, and learned that he had found the route far more difficult than he had been led to believe, and, owing to natural and artificial obstacles to his advance, he had abandoned the attempt to reach the Yazoo, and at the time of my meeting him was in the act of backing down Deer Creek. I accordingly made the necessary dispositions to cover his boats while engaged in this slow and tedious process.

The progress was slow, consuming all of the 22d, 23d, and part of the 24th of March, when the fleet again reached Black Bayou, at Hill's plantation. Not a shot was fired at the gunboats after we drove the enemy back on first encountering him. The enemy hung upon the rear of our column, but would not come within reach.

We remained at Hill's plantation all of the 25th, during which day the enemy appeared at Fore's plantation, about 3 miles above Hill's, displaying three regiments of infantry and some cavalry.

I endeavored to draw them within range, but they came no nearer. Admiral Porter left the fleet at that point on the morning of the 25th, and I proposed to remain for some days, but on the morning of the 26th I received General Grant's note of March 22, and a note addressed to the admiral by his flag-captain, [K. Randolph] Breese, which the admiral had sent up to me, urging the immediate return to the mouth of the Yazoo of the fleet for certain reasons therein set forth; and having sent scouts well to the front, I concluded that the enemy had no design to come nearer than Watson's, 5 miles above. I determined to return. Accordingly, at noon that day pickets were drawn in, all the men and working parties were embarked on the gunboats and transports, and we returned to our original camps, reaching them in the night of March 27.

I now inclose a map made by Lieutenant Pitzman, topographical engineer, showing the route as traveled.* Hence to the mouth of Cypress Bayou (12 miles) the navigation is good. Thence up Cypress 5 miles, also good. Thence 7 miles to Muddy Bayou; channel deep but crooked;

* Not found.

boats experience much trouble from short bends and overhanging trees. Thence 20 miles up Steele's Bayou; good navigation for small boats. Thence 4 miles through Black Bayou; navigation has been much improved by our pioneers, but is still impracticable to any save iron boats; wooden boats would be all torn to pieces. Thence 30 miles up Deer Creek; water deep but channel narrow, crooked, and filled with young willows, which bind the boats and make navigation difficult, and the banks along the whole length are lined with heavy trees and overhanging branches that tear down chimneys and carry away pilot-houses, stanchions, and all wood-work.

I did not see the Rolling Fork, but without hesitation I pronounce Black Bayou and Deer Creek useless to us as a military channel.

All the country along Steele's Bayou and Black Bayou is under water, but along Deer Creek are many fine plantations, well stocked with mules, cattle, sheep, hogs, corn, and cotton.

Our expedition being chiefly for reconnaissance and partially to protect the gunboats, we went no farther than these objects required.

I inclose the report of Col. Giles A. Smith and Lieutenant-Colonel Rice, and being myself along, bear testimony to the alacrity of the troops, their eagerness to pursue the enemy, and the cheerfulness with which they marched in rain and mud.

I feel assured Admiral Porter will admit we rendered him and his fleet good service, as without our presence it would have cost him many valuable lives to have extricated his boats while the banks of Deer Creek were lined by the enemy's sharpshooters, against whom his heavy ordnance could not well be brought to bear.

We lost but 2 men—one of the Sixth Missouri and one of the Eighty-third Indiana—whose names are given in the appropriate places.

In order that the general may fully understand the disposition made of the troops sent on this expedition, I inclose the reports of Brigadier-General Stuart, commanding the division, and his brigadiers, Cols. Giles A. Smith, T. Kilby Smith, and Hugh Ewing; also of Lieutenant-Colonel Rice, who commanded the Second Brigade in its march up Deer Creek and back.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

ADDENDA.

DEER CREEK, *March* 19, 1863.

General [SHERMAN]:

We are within 1½ miles of Rolling Fork, having undergone an immensity of labor. Had the way been as good as represented to me, I should have been in Yazoo City by this time; but we have been delayed by obstructions which I did not mind much, and the little willows, which grow so thick that we stuck fast hundreds of times.

I beg that you will shove up troops to us at once. I am holding the mouth of Rolling Fork against [Wirt] Adams' troops, which have attacked our 200 men. We have only two pieces of artillery; they have six, and 200 men. We should take possession here at once with the army. There is everything here the heart of a soldier could desire; everything in abundance. Please send; it takes all my men to defend the position I have taken. I think the distance is only 14 miles by land.

I shall look for these re-enforcements. I send you a dispatch from Captain Murphy. Please send on troops.

I think a large force will be used to block us up here. We must have every soldier to hold the country or they will do it. Our difficulties increase.

Truly yours, &c.,

DAVID D. PORTER,
Acting Rear-Admiral.

P. S.—I think 10,000 troops could be transported here rapidly from abreast of Island 93, below Bunch's Bend, Mississippi River. We will require that many here before we get through with this matter.

[Indorsement.]

MARCH 21—8 a. m.

Received midnight March 19–20, answered March 20, describing state of facts at the moment. All the country but Deer Creek and Mississippi levees under water. Sixth and Eighth Missouri and One hundred and Sixteenth Illinois are up. Balance of Stuart's division at Muddy Bayou.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. David Stuart, U. S. Army, commanding Second Division.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Young's Point, La., March 29, 1863.

SIR: In pursuance of an order of General Grant, I embarked the troops of the Second Division on transports at Young's Point, on the morning of the 17th instant, with the exception of the Fifty-fifth Illinois, then absent on other duty, and the Eighth Missouri, which had preceded us on the 16th, by order of General Sherman. My instructions were to debark at Eagle Bend, on the river, and cross the plantation near Muddy Bayou, to Steele's Bayou; there to embark on transports and move up to Rolling Fork, reporting to Major-General Sherman.

Arriving about 1 p. m. at Eagle Bend, I reconnoitered the ground, and found it impassable for the troops without the construction of rafts and bridges. A suggestion from a citizen that the crossing might be effected some 20 miles above, near Tallulah, induced me to dispatch Col. Giles A. Smith, commanding First Brigade, with his boat, to reconnoiter that point. Meanwhile I proceeded to construct a crossing at Eagle Bend, using for the purpose the negro huts and frame of the cotton-gin found on the plantation belonging, as I learned, in part to Senator [William M.] Gwin, of California.

At night I returned to Young's Point to acquaint Major-General Grant with the condition of things, and receive his instructions. The general informed me that he had ordered his boat, the Magnolia, to move up to our rendezvous at 1 o'clock that night, and that he would join us at daylight.

On my return to Eagle Bend, Col. Giles A. Smith reported to me, as the result of his exploration, that the country back of Tallulah was submerged, and that it was impracticable for the passage of troops. General Grant arriving, passed over the route, and ordering it pro-

ceeded with as rapidly as possible, I pushed it with all the force I could employ upon it.

I passed the troops over it on the 19th, and embarked 950 men on the Silver Wave, the only boat reporting for the service. I met General Sherman on a tug, at the mouth of Muddy Bayou, while embarking for the first trip. We landed at the first piece of dry land on Black Bayou, about 1½ miles below Hill's plantation. General Sherman remaining with the troops, I returned on the Silver Wave, to push forward the remainder of the troops. Another load by the Wave I landed at the mouth of Black Bayou, and transferred them on a flat-boat to the landing above mentioned. A third trip by the Wave, and two each by the Diligent and Eagle, transported the entire command.

Arriving at Hill's plantation on the morning of the 23d instant with General Ewing's brigade, I soon received an order from General Sherman, advising me that the gunboats and troops were on their return march, and instructing me to send out a regiment to meet them some 4 miles out. I dispatched at once the Fourth West Virginia, established a strong picket on the west side of Deer Creek, with a regiment thrown out some 4 miles in that direction, and awaited the return of the troops.

On the 24th, General Sherman, with the troops and gunboats, came back. We remained at Hill's plantation until the 26th, awaiting some threatening demonstrations of the enemy; but finding they had no intention of coming near us, but seemed a mere hovering party, General Sherman ordered the re-embarkation of the troops, and about 3 o'clock in the afternoon we descended the Black Bayou and arrived at Young's Point on the evening of the 27th.

The few casualties are referred to in the reports of my brigade commanders, to which I beg leave respectfully to refer.

I take leave to compliment Major Vance, Fourth West Virginia, who was detailed as a field officer in command of the details ordered from each regiment to accompany and guard the stores on the Silver Wave. He was of very great service and assistance to me in every way, in embarking and disembarking, distributing and regulating the distribution of the rations, ammunition, &c. He is a very faithful, assiduous, and intelligent officer.

Colonel Parry, with his Forty-seventh Ohio Regiment, built the road, rafts, and bridges across the plantation at Muddy Bayou. I never knew a regiment do so much and so good a work in so short a time. They are the best set of men I have had to do with in the army, and Colonel Parry himself one of the most energetic of officers.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. STUART,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON, *Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 3.

Report of Col. Giles A. Smith, Eighth Missouri Infantry, commanding First Brigade.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., SECOND DIV., FIFTEENTH A. C.,
Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the movements of the First Brigade in the expedition up Steele's Bayou, Black Bayou, and Deer Creek.

The Sixth Missouri and One hundred and sixteenth Illinois Regiments embarked at the mouth of Muddy Bayou on the evening of Thursday, March 18 [19], and proceeded up Steele's Bayou to the mouth of Black; thence up Black Bayou to Hill's plantation and junction with Deer Creek, where we arrived on Friday at 4 p. m., where we joined the Eighth Missouri, Lieutenant Colonel Coleman commanding, which had arrived at that point two days before. General Sherman had also established his headquarters here, having preceded the Eighth Missouri in a tug, with no other escort than two or three of his personal staff, reconnoitering all the different bayous and branches, thereby greatly facilitating the movements of the troops, but at the same time exposing himself beyond precedent in a commanding general.

At 3 o'clock on Saturday morning, the 20th [21st] instant, General Sherman having received a communication from Admiral Porter, at the mouth of Rolling Fork, asking for a speedy co-operation of the land forces with his fleet, I was ordered by General Sherman to be ready with all the available force at that point to accompany him to his relief; but before starting it was arranged that I should proceed, with the force at hand (800 men), while he remained, again entirely unprotected, to hurry up the troops expected to arrive that night, consisting of the Thirteenth Infantry and One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Volunteers, completing my brigade, and the Second Brigade, Col. T. Kilby Smith commanding.

This, as the sequel showed, proved a very wise measure, and resulted in the safety of the whole fleet. At daybreak we were in motion with a negro guide. We had proceeded but about 6 miles when we found the enemy had been very busy felling trees to obstruct the creek. All the negroes along the route had been notified to be ready at nightfall to continue the work. To prevent this as much as possible, I ordered all able-bodied negroes to be taken along, and warned some of the principal inhabitants that they would be held responsible for any more obstructions being placed across the creek.

We reached the admiral about 4 p. m., with no opposition save my advance guard (Company A, Sixth Missouri) being fired into from the opposite side of the creek, killing 1 man and slightly wounding another. Having no way of crossing, we had to content ourselves by driving them beyond musket-range, and, proceeding with as little loss of time as possible, I found the fleet obstructed in front by fallen trees and in rear by a sunken coal-barge, and surrounded by a large force of rebels with an abundant supply of artillery, but wisely keeping their main force out of range of the admiral's guns. Every tree and stump covered a sharpshooter, ready to pick off any luckless marine who showed his head above decks, and entirely preventing working parties from removing obstructions.

In pursuance of orders from General Sherman, I reported to Admiral Porter for orders, who turned over to me all the land forces in his fleet, about 150 men, together with two howitzers, and was instructed by him to retain a sufficient force to clear out the sharpshooters, and distribute the remainder along the creek for 6 or 7 miles, to prevent any more obstructions being placed in it during the night. This was speedily arranged, our skirmishers capturing 3 prisoners.

Immediate steps were now taken to remove the coal-barge, which was accomplished about daylight on Sunday morning, when the fleet moved back toward Black Bayou. By 3 p. m. we had only marched about 6 miles, owing to the large number of trees to be removed. At this point, where our progress was very slow, we discovered a long line of the en-

emy filing along the edge of the woods and taking position on the creek, about 1 mile ahead of our advance. Shortly after, they opened fire on the gunboats from batteries behind the cavalry and infantry. The boats not only replied to the battery, which they soon silenced, but poured a destructive fire into their lines. Heavy skirmishing was also heard in our front, supposed to be three companies from the Sixth and Eighth Missouri, whose position, taken the previous night to guard the creek, was beyond the point reached by the enemy, and consequently liable to be cut off or captured.

Captain [Elias K.] Owen, of the Louisville, the leading boat, made every effort to go through the obstructions and aid in rescuing the men. I ordered Major Kirby, with four companies of the Sixth Missouri, forward, with two companies deployed. He soon met General Sherman, with the Thirteenth Infantry and One hundred and thirteenth Illinois, driving the enemy before them and opening communication along the creek with the gunboats. Instead of our three companies referred to engaging the enemy, General Sherman had arrived at a very opportune moment with the two regiments mentioned above and the Second Brigade. The enemy not expecting an attack from that quarter, after some hot skirmishing retreated. General Sherman immediately ordered the Thirteenth Infantry and the One hundred and thirteenth Illinois to pursue, but after following their trace for about 2 miles they were recalled. We continued our march for about 2 miles, when we bivouacked for the night.

Early on Monday morning, March 22 [23], we continued our march, but owing to the slow progress of the gunboats did not reach Hill's plantation until Tuesday, the 23d [24th] instant, where we remained until the 25th [26th], then re-embarked and arrived at Young's Point on Friday, the 27th instant. Below you will find a list of casualties.*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GILES A. SMITH,
Colonel Eighth Missouri Volunteers, Comdg. First Brigade.

Capt. C. MCDONALD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

P. S.—I forgot to state above that the Thirteenth Infantry and One hundred and thirteenth Illinois, being under the immediate command of General Sherman, he can mention them as their conduct deserves.

G. A. S.

No. 4.

Report of Col. George B. Hoge, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. 113TH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

COLONEL: I would respectfully submit the following report of my command, the Thirteenth U. S. Infantry and the One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry, in the skirmish on Deer Creek, near Rolling Fork, March 22, 1863:

While marching, as per order of General Sherman, when within about 3 miles of Rolling Fork, my advance guard, under command of Captain

* Shows 1 man killed and 3 men wounded.

Washington, of the Thirteenth U. S. Infantry, were fired into by the enemy. I ordered Captain Washington to deploy his command as skirmishers, and advance in a southwesterly direction about 200 yards. I then marched my command forward to within a short distance of where the first skirmishing took place, and there formed the line of battle. Previous to forming the line of battle, I ordered Captain Williams, of the One hundred and thirteenth Regiment Illinois Volunteers, to deploy his company as skirmishers, his right resting on Captain Washington's left. After line of battle was formed, I ordered Captains Ewing and Irish, and Lieutenant Knox, of the Thirteenth U. S. Infantry, to deploy their commands as skirmishers on the line running north and south. I then advanced my command in line of battle about 200 yards, when I halted, awaiting a report from the skirmishers, which was brought to me by the adjutant of the Thirteenth U. S. Infantry. I then advanced till I came close on to the skirmishers, when I varied the direction somewhat of the skirmishers, inclining to the north, and ordered all the skirmishers to keep their commands as nearly on a line as possible. The skirmishers having driven the enemy very rapidly, and not being able to follow them in line of battle, I changed my command from line of battle into the march by column, and followed the skirmishers as closely as possible. When within about 1½ miles of Rolling Fork, I halted the column and drew in the skirmishers. I then marched my command in a southeasterly direction until I came to the Deer Creek road, when I again halted, and the skirmishers all reported. I then countermarched, and marched down Deer Creek road, when I had the honor to report to you.

Casualties, 1 man wounded in the ankle, in Captain Washington's company, Thirteenth U. S. Infantry.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. B. HOGE,
Colonel, Commanding.

Col. GILES A. SMITH,
Commanding First Brigade, Second Division.

No 5.

Report of Col. Thomas Kilby Smith, Fifty-fourth Ohio Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV., FIFTEENTH A. C.,
Camp opposite Vicksburg, March 27, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by four regiments of the Second Brigade, under my command, in the late expedition in aid of Admiral Porter. (The Fifty-fifth Illinois was ordered on special service the 15th instant, under command of Brigadier-General Ransom, and did not report back to my command till the 26th instant.)

On the morning of the 17th instant, the brigade was embarked at Young's Point upon transports, and, proceeding up the Mississippi River, landed at Eagle Bend, from whence a bridge and road sufficient for the passage of infantry was constructed to Steele's Bayou by details from the division.

On the evening of the 19th, the brigade was debarked, and, marching to Steele's Bayou, bivouacked near its intersection with Muddy Bayou. At this time I placed the command with Lieutenant-Colonel Rice, of the

Fifty-seventh Ohio, the senior officer of the brigade, and, in company with Generals Sherman and Stuart, proceeded up Steele's Bayou in a tug, to reconnoiter and prepare the way for the transit of troops. The bayou was tortuous and overhung with trees, whose branches seriously impeded the passage of transports. Great skill and constant vigilance on the part of navigators was required to keep these from irreparable injury; the sinking of a boat would have been fatal to the expedition and resulted in disaster to the gunboat fleet.

I remained with General Stuart, aiding him in facilitating the embarkation and debarkation of troops until the whole division was landed at the mouth of Black Bayou. By misunderstanding, I was prevented from joining my own brigade at Hill's plantation, 2 miles above, it having marched before my arrival at that point, where I expected to meet it with the residue of the troops. The brigade, therefore, remained under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Rice, to whose report, forwarded herewith, I respectfully refer for its proceedings from the evening of the 21st to the morning of the 24th instant. While I was mortified at being separated from my soldiers, my perfect confidence in the ability of this fine officer left me no apprehension as to his conduct of the command.

You will observe by his report that, on the morning of the 22d, the brigade marched up the east bank of Deer Creek, and having, in cooperation with the First Brigade, extricated Admiral Porter and his gunboats from their perilous position, returned to Hill's plantation at 11 a. m. of the 24th instant. Here it bivouacked.

At noon on the 25th instant, I ordered the Eighty-third Indiana, Colonel Spooner commanding, to take position on Fore's plantation, a mile or more distant from Hill's, as an advance post, a body of cavalry and regiments of infantry from the enemy making demonstration in that direction. With these a sharp skirmish ensued, and Private William Lathrop, of Company G, Eighty-third Indiana, was killed, the only casualty or accident of any kind I have to report.

In the engagement the regiment sustained its high reputation, and for minute particulars I respectfully refer you to the report of then Captain (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Myers.

At the close of evening, the Eighty-third was withdrawn from the front, and the following day (26th) the brigade was embarked, with other troops, upon the transports Silver Wave and Eagle, and, after an exciting passage through the bayous into the Yazoo, debarked at the lower landing of Young's Point on the 27th, from whence it marched, in good order, to camp on the levee.

It is usual, in reports of this character, to compliment officers and soldiers, and because the custom is common the compliment loses value; yet I cannot, in justice to the hardy veterans of the Second Brigade, let the opportunity pass without once more testifying to the courage, constancy, and uncomplaining fortitude that sustains them under every exposure, fatigue, and privation. The whistling of bullets is as familiar to their ears as household words. Danger they scorn, and the cheerfulness with which they encounter hardships is beyond all praise.

Respectfully referring to the accompanying reports of regimental commanders, with request that they be returned at some future time for copy, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

THOS. KILBY SMITH,
Col., Comdg. Second Brig., Second Div., Fifteenth Army Corps.

Capt. C. MCDONALD,
A. A. G., 2d Div., 15th Army Corps, Dept. of the Tennessee.

No. 6.

Reports of Lieut. Col. Americus V. Rice, Fifty-seventh Ohio Infantry, commanding regiment and Second Brigade.

HDQRS. FIFTY-SEVENTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

COLONEL: Agreeably to your order on March 19, I took command of the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, it being at the time on the march from Eagle Bend to Steele's Bayou. I disposed the brigade along Steele's Bayou and Muddy Bayou to the best possible advantage, where we remained until 12 m. March 21, At this time you returned from a reconnaissance up the bayou, and put the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry on the steamer Eagle, the Eighty-third Indiana on the Silver Wave, and the One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois on the Diligent. That evening the brigade arrived at Hill's plantation, on the Black Bayou.

On the morning of the 22d, by the order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman, I again assumed command of the Second Brigade. At 8 o'clock, by order of General Sherman, I put the brigade in line of march, following the First Brigade, the Fifty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry in advance. We marched up the east bank of Deer Creek about 10 miles, when I heard brisk firing by the advance guard of the First Brigade, also several shots from the gunboats, some 4 miles ahead, replied to by a battery from the enemy. The Fifty-fourth Ohio, commanded by Maj. C. W. Fisher, after loading, moved forward in quick time till it came up with the First Brigade, which had now filed to the right in an open woods, and formed line of battle with skirmishers in front. I had the Fifty-fourth Ohio immediately join the left of the First Brigade in line of battle, and Major Fisher moved forward his right company as skirmishers, until it arrived in a line with the skirmishers of the First Brigade.

At this time General Sherman came up, and by his direction the left of the Fifty-fourth was placed in the road along the east bank of Deer Creek. The One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Eldridge commanding, came close in support, followed by the Eighty-third Indiana, Captain Myers commanding, and the Fifty-seventh Ohio, Captain McClure commanding. The line now moved forward, driving the enemy's skirmishers, with but little resistance, for about 1 mile, when we came to an open field. The enemy had disappeared to the right in the woods. Company A, Fifty-fourth, was sent forward to the houses on the plantation which we had come to. The Fifty-fourth again moved by the right flank and the rest of the brigade followed. On coming up to the houses, we met the Eighth and Sixth Missouri, and One hundred and sixteenth Illinois, and the gunboats on their retrograde movement, much pleased that we had come to their assistance, for they were in a critical situation, the enemy having surrounded them. The Fifty-fourth Ohio was now sent ahead 1 mile, to relieve six companies of the Sixth and Eighth Missouri, which were guarding the rear gunboats on their way down the creek. The move down the river was continued. General Sherman ordered me to protect the gunboats on their way down. I placed the Fifty-seventh in advance, opposite the Louisville, the Eighty-third Indiana and One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois in the interior, and the Fifty-fourth came up after the

rear of the last boat, marched down the creek 2½ or 3 miles, where, by order of General Sherman, I encamped the brigade for the night.

On the morning of the 23d, we resumed the march, the Second Brigade in advance, the One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois leading. Marched to Watson's plantation, some 5 miles, where we encamped till the next morning, waiting for the gunboats to come up.

On the morning of the 24th, by order of Major-General Sherman, I had the feeble of the command placed on the gunboat Carondelet. At 8 o'clock I again moved forward the brigade, the Eighty-third Indiana in advance, and came to Hill's plantation at 11 a. m., when I turned over the brigade to you and returned to my regiment.

Part of the time the weather was very inclement, and thereby the roads rendered exceedingly bad, and the march quite fatiguing to the men. With promptness and alacrity were all commands obeyed by the different regiments, and I have to thank the officers and men of each for their worthy bearing, and for their consideration to me during the time that circumstances gave me command of the brigade.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. V. RICE,

Lieut. Col., Comdg. 2d Brigade, 2d Division, 15th Army Corps.

Col. T. KILBY SMITH,

Comdg. Second Brig., Second Div., Fifteenth Army Corps.

HDQRS. FIFTY-SEVENTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,

Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the late expedition to Rolling Fork, Miss.

By orders from T. Kilby Smith, commanding brigade, I marched the Fifty-seventh Regiment, with two days' rations in haversacks, at daylight on Tuesday morning, March 17, some 4 miles to the upper landing, and embarked on board the steamer Minnehaha. At 10 o'clock the boat with the fleet moved up the river to Eagle Bend. We remained on board till the morning of the 19th, during which time a foot bridge was constructed over a part of Muddy Bayou and a portion of the country overflowed between Eagle Bend and Steele's Bayou, the Fifty-seventh performing its part of the work.

Debarked from the Minnehaha on the morning of the 19th, and soon after dinner (having drawn three days' rations from Captain [Frank J.] Crawford, acting commissary of subsistence), the same day, marched easterly from Eagle Bend along Muddy Bayou to Steele's Bayou. At this time, by order of Col. T. Kilby Smith, I was assigned the command of the Second Brigade, and the command of the Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry was turned over to Capt. John McClure.

I resumed command of the Fifty-seventh on the 24th, the brigade having returned to Hill's plantation, where we remained until the morning of the 26th. Embarked on board the steamer Eagle, at the landing on Black Bayou, and returned through Steele's and Cypress Bayous to the Yazoo, thence to Young's Point, La., where we arrived at 4 o'clock last evening. Immediately debarked, and put the regiment in its quarters on the levee.

The conduct of officers and men was all that I could desire; though their duties at times were arduous, yet they were performed cheerfully and with a will.

The report of Captain McClure, who had command of the regiment from the 19th to the 24th, is herewith submitted.*

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. V. RICE,

Lieut. Col., Comdg. Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. G. MOODIE WHITE,

A. A. A. G., Second Brig., Second Div., Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 7.

Report of Col. Hamilton N. Eldridge, One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. 127TH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to your request, I respectfully submit the following report of the part taken by my regiment in the late expedition to Rolling Fork:

The regiment left camp at Young's Point on Tuesday, the 17th instant, marched to the upper landing, embarked on the steamer David Tatum, and proceeded to Eagle Bend, Miss., the same day. The Eighty-third Indiana Regiment, Captain Myers, shared the steamer with us.

On the 18th, we lay quietly on board the steamer. We had been ordered to take but one day's rations in haversacks, the remaining rations for five days being placed on the steamer Silver Wave, in charge of a detail of 2 non-commissioned officers and 30 privates, the Silver Wave having ascended the Yazoo River and Muddy Bayou to a point east of and about a mile from us. We would have been regularly supplied with rations but for the necessary delay in building a bridge before the troops could be crossed to the point where the Silver Wave lay. As it was, my men were without rations for one day. We were finally supplied from the steamer Fanny Bullitt.

On the 19th, we disembarked and crossed over to the junction of Steele's and Muddy Bayous. Here we remained until the afternoon of the 21st, when we embarked on the steamer Diligent, and proceeded up Muddy and Black Bayous to the point indicated for disembarkation, and from thence marched to Reality plantation, where we found two regiments of our brigade encamped.

On the 22d (Sunday), we started at 9 a. m., marching about 12 miles up Black Bayou, following the Fifty-fourth Ohio Regiment. Heavy cannonading was heard soon after noon, which was kept up, with occasional intermissions, till we came in sight of the gunboats. When near Wright's farm, musketry was heard from the skirmishers in the advance, and I halted my regiment and had them load their pieces. We then advanced about a mile, till we met the gunboat Louisville, where we were halted and remained till about 6 p. m., when we commenced to retreat, moving back this night as far as Wright's farm.

On the 23d instant, we moved back to Watson's plantation, and on the 24th we moved back nearly to the point where we disembarked from the Diligent on the night of the 21st, a mile below Reality plantation. On the 26th, we went aboard the steamer Silver Wave, in company with the Eighty-third Indiana Regiment and a battalion of the

* See No. 10, p. 448.

Thirteenth U. S. Infantry, and proceeded by way of Black and Muddy Bayous and the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers to the lower landing at Young's Point, La., where we arrived on the 27th instant, at 5 p. m.

My regiment numbered about 20 officers and 300 enlisted men for duty in this expedition.

Very respectfully, yours,

H. N. ELDRIDGE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. 127th Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

Col. T. KILBY SMITH,
Commanding Second Brigade.

No. 8.

Report of Capt. Benjamin H. Myers, Eighty-third Indiana Infantry.

HDQRS. EIGHTY-THIRD REGT. INDIANA VOLUNTEERS,
Camp, Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

SIR: I beg leave to report that on the morning of the 17th instant, in obedience to orders, the Eighty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers embarked on board the David Tatum, upward bound from this point. The regiment disembarked at Gwin's farm.

On the following day, 19th instant, the regiment moved across the peninsula to Muddy Bayou, where they remained until the 20th instant, at which time we embarked on board the Silver Wave, and moved in the direction of Black Bayou, and then up the bayou to Hill's farm, where we disembarked. The regiment from that point marched on foot till we reached our advance (say 20 miles). Our arrival was certainly very timely, the enemy having our advance flanked and being immediately upon their rear.

Our demonstration was such that the enemy withdrew, and I received orders to retire, which I complied with, reaching the then headquarters of General Sherman, on Hill's farm, on the 24th instant.

On the 25th instant, we were ordered to take position on Fore's plantation. At this point and time Col. Benjamin J. Spooner joined the regiment and assumed command. I shall, however, at his request, conclude this report.

I immediately marched the regiment to the point indicated, where I met the enemy. I had taken the precaution before entering the woods dividing the Hill and Fore plantations to throw out Company A, Captain Chipman commanding, as skirmishers, with orders to skirmish the entire woods, which order Captain Chipman obeyed to the letter. When my line of skirmishers reached the cleared ground of Fore's plantation, they met the skirmishers of the enemy, and engaged them in a sharp skirmish of a half hour's duration. While the skirmishing was very brisk, and indulging the idea that a general engagement would follow, I ordered up to support my skirmishers Companies G, Lieutenant Hazen commanding, and K, Lieutenant Scott. The firing at this moment was rapid. I went in person to the front, and found the enemy in force in line of battle, preceded by at least one regiment as skirmishers. I lost, of Company G, 1 killed, to wit, William Lathrop.

I then received orders to withdraw my whole force, save a small picket force. I withdrew the regiment, and on the morning following embarked on board the steamer Silver Wave, and arrived at camp at this point on the 27th instant.

I am happy to say that no casualty or accident happened my command, save the one mentioned in this report.

I cannot close this report without favorably mentioning the services rendered by Acting Adjutant Roertz, who was placed in command of the force engaged on the 25th instant. His gallantry is worthy of commendation. Indeed, all brought in contact with the enemy behaved with that gallantry which should distinguish the citizen soldier.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

BEN. H. MYERS,

Captain, Comdg. Eighty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers.

Capt. G. MOODIE WHITE, *Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 9.

Report of Lieut. Col. Cyrus W. Fisher, Fifty-fourth Ohio Infantry.

HDQRS. FIFTY-FOURTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Opposite Vicksburg, March 27, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Fifty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the expedition up Steele's Bayou by the Second Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps:

On the morning of the 17th instant, with two days' rations in haversacks, I marched the regiment from their present camp to Young's Point, a distance of 4½ miles, and embarked upon the steamer Minnehaha. We landed at Eagle Bend, in the Mississippi River, on the evening of the 17th instant, and assisted in the construction of a foot-bridge and road from the Gwin plantation to Steele's Bayou, which was so far completed as to allow the transit of troops on the afternoon of the 19th instant, at which time we disembarked and marched toward Steele's Bayou, about three-fourths of a mile, and bivouacked for the night.

We remained at this point until noon the 21st, when we were ordered by Colonel Smith, commanding Second Brigade, to embark on the steamer Eagle, then lying in Steele's Bayou, which order was complied with promptly by my command. We steamed up the bayou through the woods slowly, arriving at the mouth of Black Bayou about 5 p. m., and were transferred into a coal-barge, in which we were transported, with the aid of a steam tug, about 2 miles up Black Bayou to a landing in a canebrake, where we met General Sherman, who directed us to march to Hill's plantation, 2 miles farther up the bayou, and bivouac for the night.

On the morning of the 22d, having filled haversacks with hard bread, I took the advance of the brigade, by order of Lieutenant-Colonel Rice, Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, at that time commanding brigade, and kept within easy supporting distance of the rear of the First Brigade. At noon the regiment halted at the plantation known as Fore's place, and after a rest of an hour was ordered to proceed. We had marched about 4 miles when the advance guard of the First Brigade was fired upon by the enemy, and brisk skirmishing was soon heard in front. Colonel Rice ordered me to form in line of battle, and advance until my right should join the left of the First Brigade. Major-General Sherman came up at the moment, and ordered me to advance in line of battle, with my left resting upon the road which ran along the bank of Deer Creek. I ordered Lieutenant Enoch, with one-half of Company A deployed as skirmishers, to advance rapidly to the front, until

he should be in line with the line of skirmishers of the First Brigade. We advanced in this order through the woods 2 miles, and when we emerged into an open field we could see our gunboats close at hand. By order of General Sherman, I called in the skirmishers, and advanced up the road by the right flank until we met the infantry force in company with the gunboats.

After resting the men an hour, by order of Colonel Rice, I advanced on the road 1½ miles, and relieved six companies from the Sixth and Eighth Missouri Regiments, which were bringing up the rear of the gunboat train. My dispositions for rear guard were scarcely completed when the enemy appeared to the eastward and falling back from the woods into the open field, being followed by our troops at very long musket range. They did not come near enough to draw a fire from us. The gunboat Carondelet threw a few shells, by way of impetus to their backward movement, with excellent effect.

At this point commenced the backward movement of the Fifty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. We moved along at a snail's pace, keeping in rear of the last gunboat, until sundown, when we were relieved, and ordered by General Sherman to rejoin the Second Brigade, which we did 2 miles back on the road, at the Mounds. During the night the rain fell heavily.

On the morning of the 23d, we marched 5 miles, over very bad roads, and were halted near a steam mill (I did not learn the name of the planter), where we remained in bivouac until the morning of the 24th, when we were ordered to march on to Hill's plantation, where we arrived about noon, and were assigned our position by Col. T. K. Smith, who again assumed command of the brigade at this point.

We remained at Hill's plantation until the morning of the 26th, and were then ordered to embark on the steamer Eagle; ran down the bayou into the Yazoo River and down to Young's Point, arriving in camp this evening.

The men and officers of the regiment who accompanied the expedition did all they were ordered to do cheerfully, and endured the exposure without a murmur.

I must here mention the fact that the major-general commanding the Fifteenth Army Corps was himself on foot, and marched part of the time at the head of the Fifty-fourth, and this exhibition of carelessness of personal comfort on the part of one so high in command filled the men with enthusiasm, and it is saying but very little to say they all believed in General Sherman.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. W. FISHER,
Major, Commanding Fifty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. G. MOODIE WHITE,
A. A. A. G., 2d Brig., 2d Div., 15th A. C., Army of the Mississippi.

No. 10.

Report of Capt. John McClure, Fifty-seventh Ohio Infantry.

HDQRS. FIFTY-SEVENTH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Young's Point, La., March 28, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your request to furnish you with an account of the part taken by the Fifty-seventh Ohio in the late march upon

Rolling Fork, during the time the same was under my command, I have the honor to report as follows:

On the afternoon of March 19, 1863, I assumed command of the Fifty-seventh Ohio. Nothing worthy of note on that afternoon.

On the 20th of March nothing of interest transpired.

On the afternoon of the 21st, I marched the regiment to the steamer Eagle, then lying at the mouth of Muddy Bayou, and placed it on board of that boat, on which we were carried through Steele's Bayou to the mouth of Black Bayou. At this point I transferred the regiment to a coal-boat, and we were taken some 2 miles up that bayou, at which point we disembarked and marched to the cotton-gin on the Hill plantation, where we remained that night.

On the morning of the 22d, I received your order to march with two days' rations in haversacks. Owing to a scarcity of rations at Hill's plantation, I was compelled to move my command on less than half rations of hard bread, without meat, coffee, sugar, rice, hominy, beans, or potatoes. We took position in the rear of the brigade, and marched along the south bank of Deer Creek for 13 miles, at which place we came up with the gunboats, at 3 p. m. of that day. By your order, I marched the Fifty-seventh Ohio back to the Montauk Mounds, and encamped for the night.

On the morning of the 23d, we took up line of retreat, and halted for the evening at Watson's Mills, where we encamped for the night.

On the morning of the 24th, we again took up line of retreat, and marched to Hill's plantation, where we arrived about 11 a. m. of that day, at which time you assumed command of the regiment.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN McCLURE,

Captain, Commanding Fifty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Lieut. Col. A. V. RICE,

Comdg. Second Brig., Second Div., Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 11.

Report of Brig. Gen. Hugh Ewing, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., SECOND DIV., FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Young's Point, La., March 29, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of my brigade in the late expedition to Rolling Fork:

An order to move at 6 a. m. of the 17th instant was received at 11.30 p. m. of the 16th, and, at the time specified, I marched along the levee to the upper landing, embarked upon transports, and arrived at Eagle Bend on the evening of the same day.

On the morning of the 18th, I ordered Colonel Parry, of the Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, to debark his regiment, and construct bridges over two impassable *crevasses* in the levee skirting Muddy Bayou. The bridges were completed at 12 m. on the 19th, and the troops of the First and Second Brigades passed over to Steele's Bayou.

On the 20th instant, I ordered Colonel Parry to construct a wagon and artillery road from the head of Muddy and Steele's Bayous, and

Colonel Lightburn, of the Fourth West Virginia, to clear a channel through Muddy Bayou sufficient to admit the passage of flat-boats.

On the morning of the 22d, I embarked on transports, and moved up Steele's Bayou, leaving Colonel Parry, with his regiment, and Colonel Lightburn, with one company of the Fourth, to complete the road and channel; debarking on Hill's plantation, at the mouth of Deer Creek, on the morning of the 23d. On the same day, by order of General Stuart, I sent the Fourth West Virginia, under Lieutenant-Colonel Dayton, up the left-hand fork of Deer Creek, to meet the gunboats and infantry, which were then returning; and also ordered the Thirtieth Ohio up the west side of Little Deer on picket and patrol.

On the 24th, Colonels Parry and Lightburn, with their commands, were ordered to join the brigade, which they did the same evening.

On the evening of the 24th, Colonel Siber, of the Thirty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with his regiment, proceeded up the left fork of Deer Creek to reconnoiter, and, if possible, discover the force of the enemy reported approaching in that direction.

At noon on the 26th, I embarked on the gun and mortar boats; at 7 p. m. on the 27th, reached the mouth of Yazoo; at 11 p. m., changed to transports; and at 12 m., disembarked at my camp at Young's Point.

Colonels Lightburn and Parry labored earnestly and successfully at the work assigned them.

I will forward regimental reports to-morrow.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HUGH EWING,
Brigadier-General.

Capt. C. MCDONALD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 12.

Report of Lieut. Col. Theodore Jones, Thirtieth Ohio Infantry.

HDQRS. THIRTIETH OHIO VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Young's Point, La., March 29, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report of the movements of the Thirtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry since March 16, 1863:

An order to move at 6 a. m. was received at 3 o'clock, and at the time specified for moving the regiment was formed upon its color line, and shortly after followed the Forty-seventh Ohio up the river, along the levee, to the upper landing, where it embarked upon transports.

About 9 a. m. on the 17th, the regiment disembarked on the Mississippi side, at Eagle Bend, and encamped along the levee.

On the 19th, two commissioned officers and 150 men were detailed to work upon a road under construction from the Mississippi River to Steele's Bayou.

On the 20th, two commissioned officers and 125 men were detailed for the same purpose. At 6 a. m. on the 21st, the regiment left its camp at Eagle Bend and marched down the river to the new road, and thence along it to the junction of Steele's and Muddy Bayous.

At 9 a. m. four companies embarked upon the Eagle, and at 12 m. the remainder embarked upon the Silver Wave. Those upon the Eagle dis-

embarked at 3 p. m. on Hill's lower plantation, known as Reality, and after marching a short mile quartered in the villa. Those upon the Silver Wave disembarked at the same place at 9 a. m. on the 22d, and at 10 o'clock joined the detachment at Reality.

At 12 m. the regiment moved down New Deer Creek, leaving a picket post of three companies (C, A, and K) at a cotton-gin 1 mile from Reality. One mile farther on we found another villa, known as Good Intent. Here another picket post of three companies (I, E, and F) was established. Two miles farther down we entered another villa, known as Kelsaw.

At 7 p. m. a party of 9 men, under command of Captain Groce, and mounted on the horses and mules that had been collected for the purpose at the three villas, again started down the creek.

At 12 p. m. they returned with the report that they had visited another plantation and villa, 2 miles distant, known as Omega, without discovering anything of interest.

On the 23d, the regiment was ordered to return to camp at Reality, excepting the first-established post at the cotton-gin, where it arrived at 3 p. m.

At 10 a. m. on the 25th, this detachment joined the regiment, and at 12 m. all went on board the gunboats Cincinnati and Mound City, the right wing upon the former and the left wing upon the latter.

At 7 p. m. on the 27th, the boats tied up near the mouth of the Yazoo; at 11 p. m. both wings were transferred to the transport Sunny South, and at 12 p. m. disembarked at our camp, at Young's Point, La.

Very respectfully,

THEODORE JONES,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Thirtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. G. LOFLAND,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 13.

Report of Col. Edward Siber, Thirty-seventh Ohio Infantry.

CAMP OF THE 37TH REGT. OHIO VOL. INFANTRY,
Young's Point, La., March 29, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to orders just received, I hereby report the part taken by the Thirty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the expedition to Deer Creek:

The regiment moved with the brigade on the morning of March 17 from camp to the upper landing; was there embarked with the Thirtieth Ohio on board of the steamer Fanny Ogden, and disembarked on the morning of the 18th at Gwin's plantation, on the left bank of the Mississippi.

At this point the regiment bivouacked during the days of the 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st, and marched on the morning of the 22d to the confluence of Muddy Creek and Steele's Bayou, at which point it was again embarked on board the steamer Silver Wave, on which the regiment proceeded up this bayou as far as Deer Creek, where it was disembarked on the evening of the 23d, and bivouacked at this place during the next night, being all this time occupied with fatigue and guard duty.

On the evening of the 24th, I received orders to proceed with a dis-

posable force of the regiment up Deer Creek, for the purpose of reconnoitering the force of the enemy reported to approach from Yazoo River. Companies D, F, and E were taken up by guard and picket duty in and around camp. Company H, under command of Captain Schultz, was sent the same evening on the right bank of Deer Creek, to protect Fore's plantation, the cotton-gin houses of which had been set fire to. The remaining six companies of the Thirty-seventh Regiment were deployed by me in the night from the 24th to the 25th in the following order: Company B, as reserve, about 2 miles from camp; Company G, in advance to the exterior skirt of the woods, about 4 miles from camp, observing the next plantation; Company I, on the right flank in the woods, and Companies A, C, and K, hidden in the woods in rear of Company G.

The next morning a detachment of mounted rebels, variously estimated from 40 to 75 men, approached the skirt of the woods occupied by Company G, and commenced skirmishing with the pickets of said company, soon withdrawing, however, and turning, for the greater part, to the woods on our right, where soon afterward they met the pickets of Company I. As they would not come nearer, I re-enforced the right flank, Company I, by Company C, under Major Hipp, ordering him to allow the enemy to come in the open field, where, in the mean while, I had hidden Companies A, K, and G, drawn up in line.

In this position I remained waiting during the whole forenoon and part of the afternoon of the 25th. As nothing more of the enemy was to be seen, I reported the facts to the general commanding brigade, and returned to camp by 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Company H, under command of Captain Schultz (30 men strong), which had been on detached service at Fore's plantation, returned somewhat later to camp, having waded through the inundations on the left, threatened, as they say, in front, and believing themselves turned by superior forces of the enemy. On the morning of the 26th, the Thirty-seventh Regiment was embarked on board the gunboat Carondelet and first mortar Grope, and returned to camp in the night of the 27th at 12 o'clock.

The regiment had no losses in this expedition.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. SIBER,
Colonel Thirty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. G. LOFLAND,
A. A. A. G., 3d Brigade, 2d Division, 15th Army Corps.

No. 14.

Report of Col. Augustus C. Parry, Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry.

HDQRS. FORTY-SEVENTH REGT. OHIO VOL. INFANTRY,
Camp in front of Vicksburg, Miss., March 29, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with orders, I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of the Forty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the late expedition through Muddy, Steele's, and Black Bayous:

At 2.30 o'clock on the morning of March 17, I received orders to have the Forty-seventh Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry in readiness to march at 7 a. m. the same day, with one day's cooked rations in haver-

sacks, and five days' rations, with all necessary camp equipage, on board the steamer Silver Wave. At the appointed time, and by order, my regiment marched to the upper landing, when I was ordered to send all horses, including the 12-pounder howitzer battery, back to camp, which order I obeyed, and accordingly sent them back to camp, and my regiment embarked on the steamer Swallow.

We then proceeded up the Mississippi River to Eagle Bend, and on March 18, at 10 a. m., was ordered to construct a bridge across two impassable *crevasses* in Muddy Bayou, for the troops to cross. Having received tools, as also help, from the One hundred and sixteenth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, we proceeded to execute the order and finish the bridge across the first deep water.

Early on the morning of the 19th, we commenced the bridge over the second *crevasse*, and by noon of the same day had it finished, so that the troops could pass, and the First and Second Brigades crossed for embarkation up Steele's Bayou.

On the morning of the 20th, I received orders from Brig. Gen. Hugh Ewing to construct a wagon artillery road from Muddy Bayou to Steele's Bayou, and to call on the Thirtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and the pioneers, under command of Lieutenant [Samuel W.] Ashmead, for assistance, which was cheerfully complied with by both officers and men.

The work commenced with energy on the part of officers and men.

On the morning of the 21st, we were still working on the artillery road, assisted by the Thirtieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry and pioneers. On the same evening we received orders that the whole brigade would move at 5 a. m. the next day, and that I should remain to finish the road.

On the morning of the 22d instant, I put the Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry to work on the road. They made fine progress, considering the inclemency of the weather. It rained very hard all day, and on the morning of the 23d (still raining hard), having put my regiment to work to accomplish finishing the road, I received orders from Brig. Gen. Hugh Ewing, at 9.30 a. m. the same day, to embark and proceed up Steele's Bayou and join the main body of the division, we having only 200 yards of the road to finish, which was accomplished about noon the same day, and arrived at our destination about dusk the same evening. The assistant surgeon was, by order, left at Eagle Bend to take care of the sick.

About noon of the 24th instant, I received orders to have all the cotton in the neighborhood thrown into the bayou, and on reaching the boats have it taken upon the steamer Silver Wave. I immediately set my regiment to work throwing bales of cotton in the bayou, and, on reaching the steamer Silver Wave, had them pull it up on deck, having detailed two companies for that purpose. On my arrival at this point, I was ordered to detail two companies of my regiment for the support of a section of a battery of Illinois artillery.

On the morning of the 25th, at 11 o'clock, I received orders to inspect arms and examine the ammunition also, and to order the companies which had been detailed back to the regiment, and to keep my men together for action. The four companies reported to me for duty during the afternoon of the 25th instant.

On the morning of the 26th, at 8.30 a. m., I received orders to march my regiment to the lower landing and embark on a coal-barge and take the steamer Champion, which order was complied with. We arrived on the steamer at 2 p. m. same day. We moved down Steele's Bayou some 10 miles, where we anchored for the night.

Early on the morning of the 27th, the boat started on its way. On reaching Muddy Bayou, I sent to General Stuart to know if we should disembark from that point. I received orders to the contrary, but to continue down Steele's Bayou, which we did. On reaching Yazoo River, we continued down this stream until reaching the Mississippi River; thence to Young's Point, arriving here at 5 p. m. same day.

I would beg leave to mention the names of Capt. George M. Ziegler, of Company C; Lieuts. Samuel F. Campbell, of Company G, and William H. Kimball, of Company I, for the faithful and untiring energy with which they worked on the artillery bridges and road, being most of the time up to their waists in mud and water assisting the men, who also deserve the highest praise.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. PARRY,

Colonel, Comdg. Forty-seventh Regt. Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. G. LOFLAND,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 15.

Report of Col. Joseph A. J. Lightburn, Fourth West Virginia Infantry.

HDQRS. FOURTH WEST VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,

Camp opposite Vicksburg, Miss., March 29, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit a report of the part performed by my regiment in the late expedition to Rolling Fork, pursuant to orders from brigade headquarters.

On the morning of the 17th instant, I marched to Young's Point, embarked on the transport Silver Moon, and proceeded to Eagle Bend. Disembarked on the morning of the 19th, and bivouacked on Senator Gwin's plantation.

On the 20th, received orders to clean out Muddy Bayou.

On the 22d, was ordered to send forward nine companies of my regiment, under command of Lieut. Col. J. H. Dayton, which I did, keeping one company to prosecute the work assigned, near Muddy Bayou. Lieut. Col. J. H. Dayton proceeded, with his command, to the head of Black Bayou; disembarked at Hill's plantation.

On the 23d, proceeded up the left-hand fork of Deer Creek, meeting the infantry and gunboats some 5 miles above Hill's plantation.

On the 24th, in connection with Colonel Parry, of the Forty-seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was ordered forward with the remainder of my command, and rejoined the expedition at Hill's plantation on the morning of the 25th.

On the 26th, at 12 m., embarked on the gunboats Louisville and Pittsburg, and arrived at Young's Point on the evening of the 27th.

No casualties to report, excepting my assistant surgeon, who was severely injured by a limb falling on his head, wounding him severely and injuring him otherwise.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. J. LIGHTBURN,

Col., Comdg. Fourth Regt. West Virginia Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. G. LOFLAND,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 16.

Report of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding District.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DISTRICT,
DEPARTMENT MISSISSIPPI AND EAST LOUISIANA,
Vicksburg, March 29, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that, on the evening of the 20th instant, I received information that the enemy were endeavoring to turn my right by an expedition, which, entering Steele's, passed into Black Bayou and Deer Creek, and was at the time that the intelligence reached me within 20 miles of Rolling Fork, through which they expected to make their way into the Sunflower River and thence into the Yazoo.

The expedition consisted of five iron-clad boats, three armed stern-wheel boats, four transports, three tugs, and nine barges, all heavily laden with troops. The importance attached to it by the enemy may be estimated by the fact that the boats were commanded by Acting Rear-Admiral Porter and the troops by General Sherman.

Some time before, I had sent off sharpshooters, under the command of Major [H. W.] Bridges, with orders to report to Colonel Ferguson, and co-operate with him in protecting the country drained by Deer Creek and the Sunflower from the raids of the enemy. This command reported to him on the 16th instant.

As soon as possible after the receipt of the intelligence, I directed Major-General Maury, commanding the right wing, to send Brigadier-General Featherston's brigade to Rolling Fork, to check their farther advance, and immediately afterward to dispatch a force, under Brigadier-General Lee, with orders to make their way up Deer Creek, fortify and obstruct it at the high ground at Hardee's, and cut off, if possible, the retreat of the enemy.

The attack made upon them by our forces in front was successful. They were repulsed in confusion, with a loss of some camp and garrison equipage and several fine barges on the first day, and, being closely followed up subsequently, were steadily driven back, and, at last, completely foiled, relinquished their attempt, and, returning, resumed their former position in front of the city on the evening of the 27th instant.

The damage done their boats was so great that it could easily be discovered from the lookout station at this point.

I regret that not even the energy of General Lee, who generously volunteered for the occasion, could overcome the difficulties in his way in time to intercept their retreat. Had it been possible, he would have done it.

For notices of subordinate commanders, I refer you to the report of Major-General Maury, herewith inclosed, and the letters of Colonel Ferguson, heretofore forwarded.

I am, major, respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
A. A. G., Dept. of Mississippi and East Louisiana, Jackson.

No. 17.

Report of Maj. Gen. Dabney H. Maury, C. S. Army, commanding Division.

HEADQUARTERS MAURY'S DIVISION,
Vicksburg, March 27, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that the expedition under General Sherman and Admiral Porter, which endeavored to penetrate, by way of Steele's Bayou, Black Bayou, Deer Creek, Rolling Fork, and Sunflower River, into Yazoo River, has been defeated and driven back. Colonel Ferguson now occupies Black Bayou, and has established communication with General Lee at Lower Deer Creek.

So soon as I was informed of this movement of the enemy, I ordered General Featherston to proceed with a portion of his brigade to re-enforce Colonel Ferguson, and to assume command of his forces. I also gladly availed myself of General Lee's offer to conduct a force from Haynes' Bluff up Lower Deer Creek, and ordered him to attack, if possible, the enemy on Black Bayou. These measures have resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy.

I cannot too highly commend Colonel Ferguson's energy and daring. To his prompt soldiership we are indebted for the arrest of the progress of the expedition until such re-enforcements came to him as have enabled us to defeat it. He has been in the advance all the time, continually pressing the enemy back. His only fear has been lest the enemy should escape.

It is again my pleasure to call to your favorable notice Brig. Gen. S. D. Lee, who volunteered to conduct a force by Lower Deer Creek to Black Bayou, and has been most energetically overcoming the difficulties of that route. The enemy retreated before General Lee could reach him.

Not having yet received General Featherston's complete report of his operations, I have nothing more to add at this time.

Very respectfully, major, your obedient servant,

DABNEY H. MAURY,
Major-General.

Major [J. J.] REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 18.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Winfield S. Featherston, C. S. Army, commanding Brigade.

DEER CREEK, *March* 20, 1863.

SIR: We arrived here to-day. The enemy are said to have one division here and five gunboats. We see the boats. We attacked them this evening, and drove them back 1½ miles. The enemy are at the junction of Deer Creek and Rolling Fork. We intend to take the boats to-night or early in the morning. Porter is here. You had better send me all the balance of my brigade. We want Deer Creek blocked or obstructed, so as to prevent them from getting in our rear. We fear nothing but an attack from the rear. We will hold them in check and drive them back, but do not like the idea of their getting in our rear.

Very respectfully,

W. S. FEATHERSTON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Major-General MAURY.

SATURDAY, *March* 21, [1863.]

The enemy are certainly re-enforcing heavily. Commodore Porter is here. Sherman is just below. They have nine boats here. Four thousand are on the march from below by land. I send you a dispatch captured last night. I submit these facts for your consideration.

W. S. FEATHERSTON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Generals MAURY, STEVENSON, and HÉBERT.

[Inclosure.]

FRIDAY EVENING.

Admiral DAVID D. PORTER:

DEAR ADMIRAL: I have about 1,000 men here now, and think, with good luck and hard work, I may have another 1,000 to-morrow in the night, and will push till I get all of Stuart's division up. I send you three Southern papers of very late dates, giving the names of the vessels which have passed Port Hudson on their way up, and which are referred to in Grant's letter to me as being below Warrenton. The gunboat Linden was sent back by Captain Woodworth for the coal-barge. Work on Black Bayou progressing well, but the crooks and turns are so short that boats cannot navigate it with speed. Please write me by bearer, and give a receipt for the papers, as I have promised to pay him $50 if he reaches you and returns safely. I have no doubt your channel will be obstructed, but no large force can assail you. Nothing from below to-day. Scouts and spies are feeling up their way from Haynes' Bluff, but I will watch them.

Yours,

SHERMAN.

—

DEER CREEK, *March* 22, 1863.

GENERAL: We have engaged the enemy here for two days, and driven them back about 5 or 6 miles. We have been fighting their boats. They have five here. We are now out of ammunition for the artillery, or nearly so. They were re-enforced yesterday; infantry marched up by land, how many we are not able to say. Admiral Porter is here on the fleet; Sherman is below on Black Bayou, where they have a strong force. This was their grand effort for securing the Yazoo. I sent you their dispatches yesterday, captured the night before. If they advance here again, this place cannot be held without a strong force. We need boats, we need ammunition, and will need more men if they advance. We cannot pursue them well without more troops; our forces are worn out. My guns are one 3-inch rifle and one 24-pounder howitzer. Have Deer Creek obstructed below, so that we cannot be cut off.

Your obedient servant,

W. S. FEATHERSTON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

P. S.—We need intrenching tools and wheelbarrows. The object is to construct a levee across Deer Creek.

—

DEER CREEK, *March* 23, 1863.

GENERAL: The Sharp has arrived with the Thirty-first and some ammunition. We engaged the enemy all day yesterday; sharpshooters

attacking the boats. About 2 p. m. we met their re-enforcements coming up, when a sharp skirmish ensued. Sherman arrived yesterday evening. Porter has conducted the fleet all the time. They formed a line of battle late yesterday and advanced on us through a field, but fell back before they came in range of our small-arms. We drove them yesterday about 2 miles. We have not advanced to-day. It is raining hard. I learn, upon reliable information from citizens, that they have on this line nearly all of their army that was in front of Vicksburg—from 20,000 to 40,000 men. This was their route for taking the Yazoo River, Mississippi, and Vicksburg. It is no small expedition of theirs. If they do not abandon it now, it will require a heavy force to defend this place. It is a hard line to defend. The shortest line we can defend here so as to keep them from cutting off supplies is 20 miles. I have not looked at the rear at all in this estimate. They can run their boats in Little Sunflower; also in Silver Creek. I cannot tell how supplies are above here. We may be unable to get them, even for a small force.

I state all these facts that you may judge of the expediency of sending more troops here. We need them, many more, but we have more here now than we could get away, if compelled to retire, with the number of boats we have here. We need more boats. The Arcadia runs badly in daylight, and cannot run at all at night. We saw nine of the enemy's gunboats yesterday evening. If they do not turn back now, this is their advance upon Vicksburg. I shall do the best I can, and leave the result to the Almighty.

Your obedient servant,

W. S. FEATHERSTON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

HEADQUARTERS FEATHERSTON'S BRIGADE,
Near Fort Pemberton, Miss., April 3, 1863.

MAJOR: In obedience to orders, I submit the following report of the troops under my command on Rolling Fork and Deer Creek:

About 3 a. m., March 19, I was ordered to move my brigade to Snyder's Bluff as rapidly as possible; to take two regiments from that point and one section of artillery, and proceed up Sunflower River and Rolling Fork to the junction of Rolling Fork and Deer Creek, to which point the enemy was said to be directing his movements. The order was promptly obeyed, and on Friday (20th), about 3 p. m., we arrived at the mouth of Rolling Fork, and disembarked the troops, who had to march through water three quarters of a mile before reaching land. Colonel Ferguson had preceded me from near Greenville, Miss., with his command, consisting of a battalion of infantry, six pieces of artillery, and a squadron of cavalry some 40 or 50 in number. Colonel Ferguson had previously engaged the enemy and driven back his advance guard from Dr. Chaney's house, immediately in the fork of Rolling Fork and Deer Creek. My artillery and infantry were moved rapidly from the boat landing, a distance of some 6 or 7 miles, to the head of Rolling Fork, and arrived there from 4.30 to 5 p. m. I immediately assumed command of all the forces, and placed them in position for an immediate attack. The battalion of infantry was placed on the right, extending up to Deer Creek. The Twenty-second and Twenty-third Mississippi Regiments were placed on the left in the nearest strip of woods to the enemy, and extending down Deer Creek below the enemy's line of boats;

the artillery on the more elevated position in the center. The enemy's boats (five in number), commanded by Admiral Porter, were lying a few hundred yards below the junction of Rolling Fork and Deer Creek, surrounded by an open field from one-half to a mile wide, and near a large, elevated mound, upon which he had planted a land battery of not more than two guns. The infantry were ordered to throw out companies of skirmishers in advance, with instructions to fire at every man who made his appearance on the boats. This disposition of the troops having been made, a brisk fire was opened by our artillery and continued until dark. This fire was responded to by the enemy's gunboats as well as their land battery until night. There was no hope of boarding the boats at this time by the infantry, as they were in the middle of the stream, and could not be reached without passing through water from 10 to 20 feet deep.

The troops remained in position during the night, with instructions that if the boats landed on the east side of Deer Creek to board whenever an opportunity offered. During the night their land battery moved from the Mound to the boats, and the boats commenced moving down stream.

Next morning the attack was renewed. Skirmishers were thrown forward to the nearest points of woods on both sides of the creek, and a constant fire kept up during the day. The artillery was not used on the second day, for the reason that the supply of ammunition was nearly exhausted by the firing on Friday. The country from the head of Rolling Fork down Deer Creek to Black Bayou is nearly a continuous chain of plantations, cleared on both sides, and but few points of woods running to the bank of the stream to serve as a covert and protection for sharpshooters. Owing to the high stage of water in Deer Creek, their guns could be sufficiently depressed on the boats to use grape and canister.

On Saturday evening, the Fortieth Alabama, Lieut. Col. John H. Higley commanding, arrived, and was placed, with the Twenty-second and Thirty-third Mississippi Regiments, under the command of Col. D. W. Hurst, Thirty-third Mississippi Regiment, who had prior to that time had the immediate command of the Twenty-second and Thirty-third Mississippi Regiments, Colonel Ferguson retaining during the whole time the immediate command of his own forces. The enemy continued to retire down the creek.

On Sunday morning the attack was continued at Moore's plantation, some 6 or 7 miles below the head of Rolling Fork. Two regiments were thrown below in advance of the boats (Twenty-second and Thirty-third Mississippi), in a point of woods running up to the creek, where it was thought they could be successfully assailed. The Fortieth Alabama and artillery ordered to open a brisk fire on them until it had exhausted its supply of ammunition. This order was promptly obeyed, and the fire of our guns most cordially responded to by the guns of the enemy's boats. The two regiments thrown below were met by Sherman's division coming up, when a sharp skirmish ensued. While this skirmish was going on between the two regiments below and Sherman's division, two regiments of the enemy advanced from the boats immediately to the front, evidently with a view of cutting off the Twenty-second and Thirty-third Mississippi, then in advance. These two regiments were ordered back to a strong position then held by the Fortieth Alabama and artillery. This was done in good order through the skirt of woods on the enemy's left. The enemy advancing some half a mile through the field, and finding our forces united, fell back to the boats. I am satisfied, from reliable information received from citizens as well as a

captured dispatch from General Sherman to Admiral Porter, that the enemy's force could not now have consisted of less than eight or nine regiments.

On Monday [23d], our troops were not moved, for the reason that our artillery was out of ammunition and hourly expecting a supply by our boats, and the men were without rations, and had been scantily and irregularly supplied up to that time, owing to the fact that we arrived without rations and without transportation, and it required time to collect both.

On Tuesday morning the march was again resumed, but the artillery was carried but a little distance until the roads were found impassable, and it was left.

On Wednesday [25th], the enemy was overtaken on Watson's farm, about 3 miles above Black Bayou. They were posted in a dense canebrake and woods, from which they retired before our skirmishers, the boats having preceded them. The woods were occupied by our troops that (Wednesday) night.

On Thursday morning our troops again advanced through Fore's plantation, when a skirmish ensued between their rear guard and our sharpshooters.

On Friday morning, when preparing to advance through the last skirt of woods on the east side of Deer Creek, before reaching Black Bayou, I learned from cavalry scouts sent in advance that the enemy's boats had gone down Black Bayou and his land forces retired.

On Monday evening, the Thirty-first Mississippi Regiment, Col. J. A. Orr commanding, arrived, and in the advance on Tuesday and Wednesday Colonel Orr had the immediate command of the Twenty-second, Thirty-third, Thirty-first Mississippi, and Fortieth Alabama Regiments.

On Friday night, after the first engagement, the cavalry was sent several miles below to fell trees into the stream to prevent the escape of the boats, but were driven from their work at an early hour by a body of the enemy's infantry without having accomplished much. The cavalry did that night capture a negro, a bearer of a dispatch from General Sherman to Admiral Porter, which was sent to you at Vicksburg. The capture of the gunboats could only have been accomplished by the presence of a land force strong enough to have moved a part of it boldly to the rear of the boats, and taken a position where the succoring land force of the enemy might have been held firmly in check, while the remaining part might have felled trees and otherwise obstructed the stream in rear of the boats, annoying them with sharpshooters and compelled their surrender from absolute stress and calamity of situation after their ammunition, and perhaps provisions, should have been exhausted. The entire force under my command up to Monday did not exceed 1,300 effective men, and at no time during the seven days did it exceed 2,500 men. The visionary absurdity of the over-sanguine expectations of capturing gunboats entertained by some military men becomes apparent when it is considered that from 12 to 15 feet depth of water, with a width of from 6 to 10 feet, is always interposed between the assailants and the object assailed, and the boats well-nigh incapable of entrance when boarded, and each arranged with reference to the protection of the other. This entire expedition was full of hardships to the troops, who endured them with patience and fortitude, and were always cool and spirited in the presence of the enemy.

I not only feel under obligation to my regular staff—Capt. W. R. Barksdale, assistant adjutant-general, and Lieut. A. N. Parker, aide-de-camp—but also to Lieutenant [W. A.] Drennan, acting ordnance

officer, and Mr. E. M. McAfee, volunteer aides, who were efficient in their places. Major [E. H.] Cummins, engineer officer, Major-General Maury's staff, accompanied me on this expedition, and had charge of all defensive works, in which he displayed much judgment and efficiency.

Our loss in the slight combats of this expedition was small, not exceeding 2 killed and 6 or 8 wounded. The enemy's loss, as learned from released citizens, was not less than from 12 to 13 killed and from 40 to 45 wounded.

A shot from our artillery, whose firing was admirable, crippled the United States tug, and took off the leg of the engineer, whose grave we found marked, "Engineer United States tug Dahlia; died March 22, 1863." The success of the expedition consists in turning and driving back the enemy, who in a very short time would have been through Rolling Fork into Sunflower River, and had the uncontested control of the Yazoo waters.

I have the honor to be, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. S. FEATHERSTON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. D. W. FLOWERREE,
Assistant Adjutant-General, General Maury's Division.

No. 19.

Report of Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army, commanding Brigade.

VICKSBURG, MISS., *March* 30, 1863.

MAJOR: In the absence of Major-General Maury, from whom I received orders, I have the honor to submit the following report of my operations on Deer Creek during the last week:

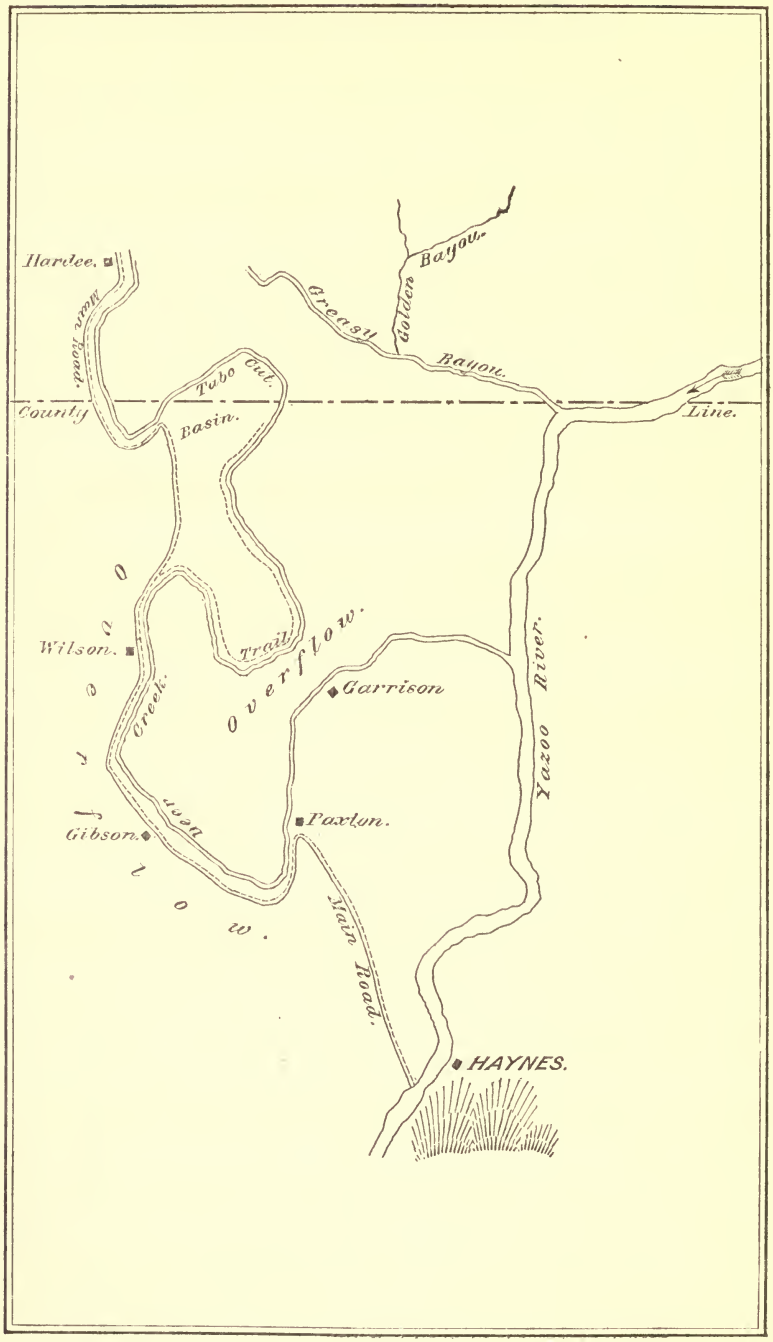
The enemy, having passed up Steele's Bayou and through Big Black Bayou into Deer Creek, were endeavoring to reach the Sunflower by passing through the Rolling Fork. Brigadier-General Featherston and Lieutenant-Colonel Ferguson, having met the enemy at the Rolling Fork, checked his further progress.

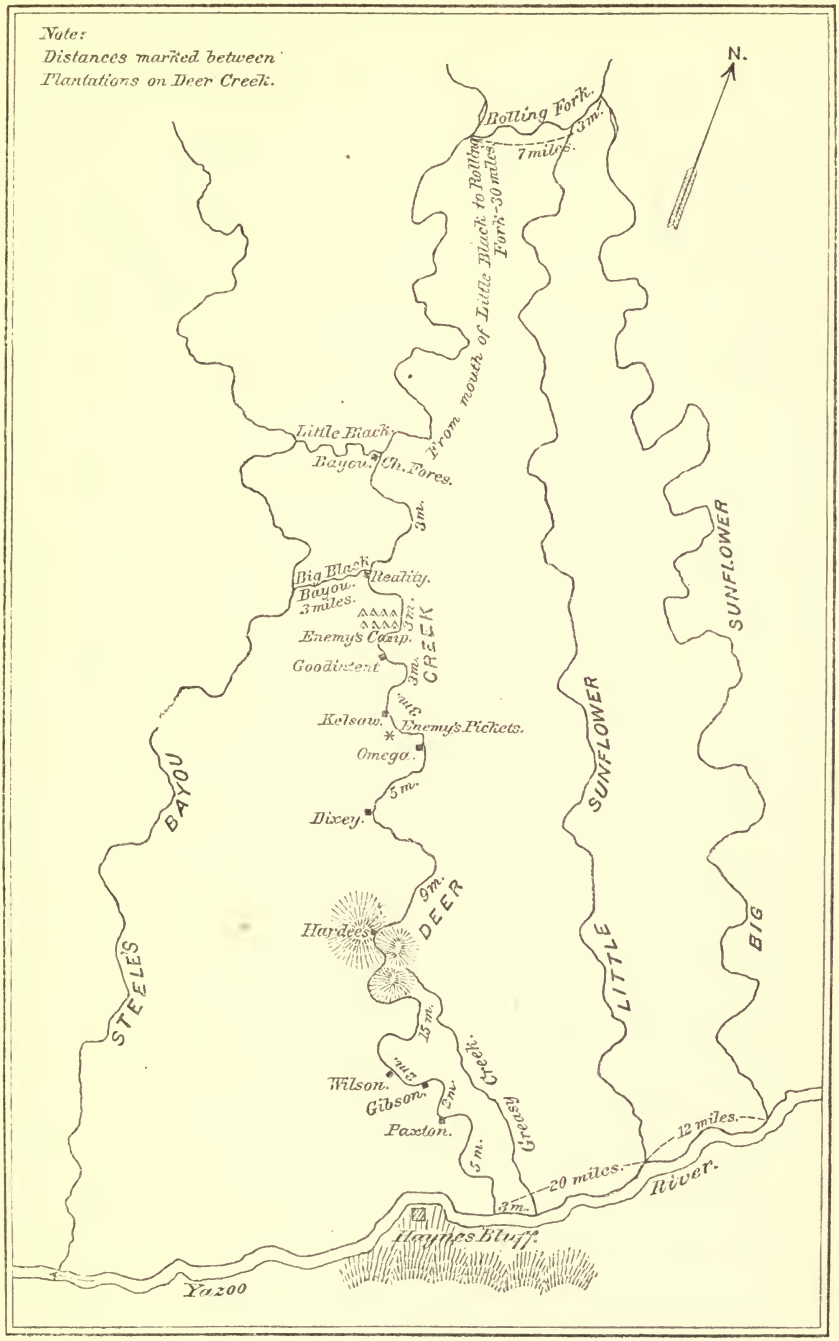
Major-General Maury directed me to take charge of an expedition and proceed to Wilson's plantation, on Lower Deer Creek, to obstruct the creek, throw up works, and, if advisable, make a diversion in the enemy's rear, with a view to aid General Featherston, and, if the means of communication admitted, he would furnish me with troops for a heavy attack on the enemy.

I arrived at Wilson's, about 6 miles from the mouth of Deer Creek, on the 24th, with the Third Louisiana. The First Mississippi Battalion was already at that point, obstructing the creek by felling trees.

On the 25th, the Third Louisiana commenced a log intrenchment, the low ground not admitting of digging to make proper works, the highest ground not being over 1½ feet above the creek and overflow from the high water.

On the 26th, the log intrenchment was continued by the Third Louisiana and Twenty-sixth Louisiana, which had arrived on the evening of the 25th, the obstructions being continued by the First Mississippi Battalion.


Hardee.
Main Road.
Tubo Cut.
Basin.
County
Greasy
Golden
Bayou.
Bayou.
Line.
Wilson.
Trail
Overflow.
Creek.
Garrison
Yazoo River.
Deer
Gibson.
Paxton.
Main Road.
HAYNES.


Note:
Distances marked between
Plantations on Deer Creek.
N.
Rolling Fork.
3 m.
7 miles.
From mouth of Little Black to Rolling Fork-30 miles.
Little Black
Bayou.
Ch. Fores.
3 m.
Big Black
Bayou.
3 miles.
Reality.
3 m.
Enemy's Camp.
Goodintent
3 m.
3 m.
CREEK
Kelsaw.
Enemy's Pickets.
Omega.
5 m.
Dixey.
9 m.
DEER
Hardees
15 m.
2 m.
Wilson.
Gibson.
2 m.
Paxton.
5 m.
Greasy Creek.
3 m.
20 miles.
12 miles.
River.
Haynes Bluff.
Yazoo
STEELE'S BAYOU
LITTLE SUNFLOWER
BIG SUNFLOWER

On the 27th, about 2 a. m., I received a note from Colonel Ferguson and from General Featherston, informing me that the enemy had retreated through Black Bayou and made their escape. The Lower Deer Creek country for 6 miles above Wilson's was almost entirely under water from the high stage of water, and it was difficult to find sufficient ground even at Wilson's for bivouacking troops. The creek not having been cleared out, the small steamer could only get up about 3 miles from the mouth, and the other 3 miles troops and supplies had to be transported in two large wood-boats by hauling up the creek by the trees and bushes, the water being too deep for poling and boats not being arranged for and too large for the use of oars. These difficulties rendered transportation very difficult. The number of skiffs at my control being very few, could not be depended on for furnishing supplies. These difficulties, taken in connection with the limited supply of rations at Snyder's Mill, and the country being overflowed in my front, prevented my making any serious advance on the enemy. Therefore, I sent a force of 75 men to the place next above Wilson's (Hardee's), distant from the pickets of the enemy about 7 miles. This detachment to reach its post had to wade through water 3½ feet deep for a mile. The enemy having retreated, I immediately commenced reembarking the troops for Snyder's Mill.

I left Wilson's place on the 29th, and arrived in this city the same date. A squadron of cavalry was left on Black Bayou to picket and report in case the enemy should return. I consider it highly improbable that the enemy will ever attempt to reach the Yazoo River through Lower Deer Creek. The creek from Hill's lower place (Kelsaw) to Paxton's, 3 miles from the mouth, has never been cleared out, the trees generally overlapping. The water is deep enough for steamers, but it would require a great deal of labor to make it practicable. The part uncleared is about 20 miles, and the country on either side of the creek overflowed except a narrow skirt of bank. Should the enemy attempt this route, it will be necessary to establish our work in front of Wilson's place (say at Hardee's, the place beyond Wilson's), as the communication between Wilson's and Hardee's by land is impracticable, and by the creek about 9 miles. The route by Geary [Greasy?] Bayou to Hardee's will have to be used. By this route the steamer can go to within 3 miles of Hardee's, and from the steamer large flat-boats can go through the overflow to within 100 yards of Hardee's. All that is necessary to be done by this route is to have the route blazed through the overflow. To operate in this creek, it will be necessary to have a great many skiffs, as they really afford the only means of moving about until Hill's Kelsaw place is reached, from which there is a good road to Black Bayou, about 6 miles. I discontinued the felling of trees in Deer Creek, as, in my opinion, the creek was more obstructed by the standing timber than by the timber felled. The timber is very heavy, and on being felled sinks to the bottom, and the boats can generally run over it, or, after being felled, it can readily be pushed into the overflow from the creek. The trees by being felled make a clearing or road for the boats, so the felling of timber at the present high water rather assists the enemy than otherwise. The water is now rising, and the higher it rises the more the standing timber is an obstruction to boats. The timber generally is not tall enough to reach across the creek, or sets back so far from the creek that, when felled, the limbs only reach the deepest water.

I would respectfully recommend that a number of skiffs be at once constructed for service on Lower Deer Creek, and a small force (say 100 men) be left to watch the enemy above Hardee's.

General [Louis] Hébert, at Snyder's Mill, has taken charge on Deer Creek since my return.

Respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN D. LEE,
Brigadier-General.

Major [J. J.] REEVE,
A. A. G., 2d Dist., Dept. Miss. and E. La., Vicksburg, Miss.

P. S.—I inclose two sketches from the creek, which will explain the references.*

No. 20.

Reports of Col. Samuel W. Ferguson, C. S. Army, commanding Detachment.

MOUTH OF ROLLING FORK, *March* 20, 1863.

MAJOR: I, yesterday, on my arrival here, dispatched in great haste to you. Since then I have advanced with infantry and cavalry, which joined me after marching down Deer Creek about 4 miles up Rolling Fork, and have succeeded in getting three pieces of artillery over the bad portion of the road, yesterday deemed impassable. I have been busy cutting timber into Rolling Fork and obstructing it. Already enough has been done to detain the boats two or three days, if unopposed. If re-enforcements do not arrive in time, and I have to abandon this point, we lose all the country drained by Deer Creek, Bogue Phaliah, Sunflower, and Yazoo, unless we can oppose them with cotton-boats in these latter. From the point at which they reached Deer Creek they can, by going down, enter the Yazoo above Haynes' Landing. If they have done this, I am already cut off. It is impossible for me yet to ascertain their force in this section. I know of seven boats positively, and have myself seen the smoke and steam from those in advance. They have not yet advanced into Rolling Fork by boat.

Day before yesterday I sent the Emma Bett on Bogue Phaliah, about 8 miles below Falls' Landing, and ordered her to go at once to latter point, take on board the animals and baggage I had left, stop at mouth of Bogue, and take on section of artillery there, then join me here. It is now about 9 a. m., and she has not yet come up. I expected her last night. The guns warn me to the front. Kept the Sharp here to fall back on, and, if the Bett comes, will at once send her with this dispatch.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

P. S.—Colonel Ferguson left this for me to add any additional news. There is none. Emma Bett arrived.

JOHN J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

CAMP ON DEER CREEK, *March* 30, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that on the 17th instant a battalion of sharpshooters, about 250 strong, under Captain [John H.] Morgan, reported to me on Deer Creek at my camp, about 40 miles above

* See pp. 462, 463.

Rolling Fork. In the course of that night I received a dispatch from some citizens, informing me that about 30 Yankees were at Watson's place, on Deer Creek, about 15 miles below Rolling Fork. I at once ordered 30 of the cavalry to oppose them, but the party had but just started when another express from the citizens informed me that five gunboats had entered Deer Creek from Black Bayou, and were rapidly making their way to Rolling Fork. I instantly ordered the rest of the cavalry by forced march to the latter place, to obstruct the creek and keep the enemy in check as long as possible. I hurried the artillery and infantry on the steamer which had brought the latter, and proceeded with all dispatch to the mouth of Rolling Fork, which I fortunately reached before the enemy, on the afternoon of the 19th. Here the prospect was gloomy enough; a pile of saw-dust the only landing place, and the first half mile of the road was overflowed, with two bridges afloat.

By the morning of the 20th, I succeeded in getting one section of artillery to the dry land, and at once attacked the enemy and drove them in on their gunboats, at that time detained in Deer Creek, about one-quarter of a mile below Rolling Fork, by some trees that had been cut by the cavalry. The attack was pushed with success until the ammunition failed, when the forces were withdrawn from range of the gunboats' shells. As soon as the rest of the guns could be brought up and the limbers replenished, the attack was renewed with the same result and discontinued for the same cause.

Just at this time Major [H. W.] Bridges reported to take command of the sharpshooters, and informed me that General Featherston was near with re-enforcements. Turning over the command of the field to him, I hastened to meet General Featherston, to inform him of the condition of things, and to urge him to hurry up and attack. On his arrival on the field, it was agreed that the artillery should open on the boats and keep up a brisk fire until his infantry should debouch from the woods on our left and rather in rear of the enemy, when a rush should be made for the boats. The artillery opened fire as directed; my sharpshooters drove in the enemy, and one section of my artillery, from an enfilading position, drove their howitzers and men in confusion to the boats. Still, none of General Featherston's infantry appeared, and the artillery fire was continued until darkness put an end to the conflict. During the night I was informed by General Featherston that his regiments were in rear of the enemy, close to the creek bank, and that in case the enemy attempted to retreat during the night they would attack at once; otherwise that we would all attack at daylight.

In compliance with this, I made an attack early on the 21st, drove the enemy back, and, after exhausting all my artillery ammunition, continued to pursue and harass him with sharpshooters, expecting at every moment to hear General Featherston's regiments open; but after I had been engaged for three hours or more, and had driven the boats back about 2 miles, I saw the forces of General Featherston in rear of the position they had held the previous afternoon, entering the woods. My sharpshooters continued to harass the enemy until dark. The latter, after reaching a position on the plantation of Dr. Moore, halted till after dark, and during the day burned every building on the place except one small stable.

On the following day it was discovered that they had during the night continued their retreat, although re-enforced by one regiment, and they were still getting out of the way as rapidly as possible. General Featherston ordered my sharpshooters to press them on the right bank, two regiments to gain their rear and then attack, while the artillery and the

Fortieth Alabama pressed them on the left bank. As soon as the enemy discovered that their rear had been gained, they halted in an open country and fired furiously at everything which could be seen, but without effect. Our artillery returned the fire as long as their ammunition held out. The regiments in the rear encountered re-enforcements coming up, and immediately fell back after slight skirmishing. The re-enforcements arrived, deployed, run in our skirmishers, and marched back to the fleet. We remained in position until dark, then fell back.

My command, having been engaged for three successive days constantly, was then held in reserve, and the enemy was followed at too great a distance for them to be again used, except the cavalry, under Captain [G.] Barnes, to whose untiring energy and gallant conduct on this, as on every other occasion since he reported to me, much praise is due.

The artillery, under Lieutenant [R. L.] Wood, behaved as I expected men who fought as they did on the 23d ultimo. Their cool, calm courage and good shooting was a glad sight to a soldier's eye. I would include in this favorable notice the section under Lieutenant [A. P.] St. John, temporarily attached to the command of Lieutenant Wood.

The sharpshooters, under skillful guidance of Major Bridges and Captain Morgan, exhibited that reckless disregard for shell and grape which made the furious cannonade of the Yankees seem an amusing display of pyrotechnics.

The expenditure of all kinds of missiles, from a 13-inch shell to a Minie ball, on every point where it was thought they might be hid, showed the estimation the enemy had of them. Except Private Reuben Wilmore, of Company I, Third Mississippi Volunteers, who fell, gallantly fighting, from a grape-shot wound in the head, none of my command were touched by their artillery, though subjected to a constant fire for three days. I regret to have to report Privates W. A. Swayze, Company C, McBeecher, Company H, and Samuel Devereau, Company E, all of Third Mississippi Volunteers, wounded by Minie balls, and Acting Sergt. Maj. John [G.] Poindexter, Company B, and Private McKnight, Company E, same regiment, captured. The two latter had particularly attracted my attention by skill and bravery.

There is just subject for congratulation that this formidable expedition, commanded by Admiral Porter, and consisting of some of the best ironclads and mortar-boats, was successfully repulsed with such trifling loss; but I must express the belief that all the boats should have been captured or destroyed by a vigorous attack, and the infantry re-enforcements destroyed in detail as they came up.

I would call attention to the burning of houses and cotton and pillaging done by Admiral Porter, in direct contradiction of the notice published by himself, an official copy of which I forwarded to the department. One of the shells from this valiant hero exploded in the chamber of an invalid woman, in which ten women and children had taken refuge. Providentially, but one negro woman was wounded by it. She now lies at the point of death. A child two years old was grievously burned. This was the most effective shell thrown by them. We caused to be destroyed one large coal-barge, and captured nine launches and yawls and several small-arms and two flags, besides cooking utensils, &c.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding Detachments.

Maj. D. W. FLOWERREE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MARCH 15–16, 1863.—Skirmishes near Hernando, Miss.

Report of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army.

PANOLA, *March* 18, 1863.

A part of my command, under Major [G. L.] Blythe, skirmished with the enemy near Hernando on Sunday; killed 1 man. Again on Monday. Enemy's loss reported 8 killed, — wounded. Our loss, 1 killed.

Another skirmish on Coldwater, 8 miles north of Holly Springs. Captains Mathews', Maxwell's, Johnson's, and Mitchell's companies engaged the enemy.

Our loss, 1 killed, 1 wounded, and several prisoners. Enemy's loss reported to be 10 killed and wounded.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

MARCH 16–18, 1863.—Expedition from Jackson to Trenton, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Daniel H. Brush, Eighteenth Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Jackson, Tenn., March 18, 1863.

SIR: I hereby report that, in pursuance of orders received from headquarters of District of Jackson, on the evening of 15th instant, I started at 6 o'clock the next morning with what men I could mount, and proceeded on the route indicated. In approaching Humboldt on the west side of the railroad, when within 3 or 4 miles, we came near to the middle fork of the Forked Deer River, and ascertained that it was impossible to cross that stream to the west, owing to the destruction of bridges and the highness of the water, and learning from a man direct from Humboldt that no armed rebels were there, I so far departed from the strict letter of the orders as to cross the railroad and proceed to Humboldt on the east side. We had to make a considerable circuit through a very swampy bottom to a ford, where we crossed. On arriving at Humboldt, I had the town surrounded, but found nobody there except citizens and a company of Sixty-second Illinois Regiment. I learned there that the previous afternoon 10 or 12 men, armed, supposed to be rebel soldiers, passed through the town, making no stop and doing no damage to property or persons. It was reported that they had come across two artillerymen in that vicinity, whom they took prisoners and paroled.

From Humboldt I proceeded to Trenton, going up on west side of the railroad. When we reached the place, I caused it to be surrounded, and caused a search to be made, but no rebels were discovered, and I could not learn that any had been there since the Union troops left; everything seemed peaceable and quiet. I was told that a Colonel McMurray, formerly in the rebel service, had been discharged and returned to his home, some 8 miles west of Trenton, two or three weeks since, to stay; also that a young man named Bell had left the enemy and gone to his home in the neighborhood. I left Trenton about 6 p. m., taking the road toward Jackson, east side of railroad, and camped for the night 5 miles south of the town. Next day at sunrise we started,

and finding the bridges across the middle fork of the Forked Deer had been destroyed, made a detour to the east about 15 miles, to the Spring Creek road. The crossing of the creek there was quite difficult, the bridge being nearly destroyed and the ford deep and muddy. However, we got horses and men across safely. It was reported to me by a man of that vicinity that on last Saturday night a squad of mounted rebels passed the road going west, and passed again going east on Sunday night. The man who told me had not seen them, but said it was the neighborhood report; that some horses had been stolen in the neighborhood, and it was supposed that was the business the men were on. From Spring Creek we took the road to this place, where we arrived about dark.

During the trip two Government mules were found in a man's stable and brought in, to be turned over to the proper officer. The man stated he had taken the mules up on the road a short time since, intending to keep them for the Government until he could deliver them. We procured feed for our horses of three different men on the trip, to whom statements were given showing the facts.

Respectfully submitted.

D. H. BRUSH,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. T. H. HARRIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MARCH 19, 1863.—Passage of the Grand Gulf batteries by the Hartford and Monongahela.

Report of Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,
Grand Gulf, March 19, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the gunboats Hartford and Monongahela passed by this morning on their way up the river. Colonel [Wm.] Wade, commanding the Parrott battery, reserved his fire, as directed, until the vessels were nearly opposite his guns. The Hartford kept between the shore and the gunboat. As soon as he opened, the latter made the best possible time around the point, and all the fire was directed against the sloop of war. The firing was very accurate, and almost every shot struck the mark, but with what effect could not be perceived.* They answered with heavy guns, but harmed nothing except a battery flag-staff.

I have been anxiously looking for the Anna Perette all day, and still hope she will be here before night. The guns can be mounted in very short order, when once here, and I trust to be able to give them a better reception on their way down.

I allowed the Grand Era to go on down to Red River this afternoon, there being no danger below. The Fulton also exhibited orders to proceed to the same destination, but I retained her to go to Hard Times, 3 or 4 miles on the other side of the river, to get a thousand or so sacks

* Rear-Admiral D. G. Farragut, U. S. Navy, reports his casualties as 2 men killed and 6 wounded. See Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

of corn, which await transportation there. Every precaution has been taken to prevent surprise, and the boat will return this afternoon.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant General.*

MARCH 21, 1863—Guerrilla attack on railway train between Bolivar and Grand Junction, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Mason Brayman, U. S. Army, commanding at Bolivar.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding Fifth Military District.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Mason Brayman, U. S. Army, commanding at Bolivar.

BOLIVAR, TENN., *March* 22, 1863.

SIR: The transactions this side of Grand Junction appear substantially as follows:

Information appears to have been sent down the road on Friday that on yesterday morning the road paymaster would be down to pay the laborers. This information, diffused, of course, through the country, probably induced the effort to capture the pay train. On yesterday morning the wood train went down in advance, the pay train following. At 8.30, the pay train came up with the wood train. A rail had been removed on the outside of a sharp curve, 3½ miles this side of Grand Junction, in a cut. The engine, tender, and five cars had run off the rails. The train men had been captured and carried off. The enemy lined the banks, and approached through the thick woods. The engineer of the pay train reversed his engine. As it paused before receding, the guerrillas, who surrounded the car, cheered triumphantly, supposing the capture accomplished. The gallant fellow stood to his work, put on all steam, and shot backward. Discovering his purpose, they poured a hot fire upon the train, striking the engine, tender, and car, several balls striking near him [the engineer]. Sheltered by the sides of the engine, he retained control of it, and brought his train to Bolivar in safety. Two persons—Mr. [Carlos] Dutton, quartermaster, and Mr. Cummings, from the machine-shop at Jackson—fearing a collision with the wood train ahead, jumped off and were captured. Through the negligence of the station agent, and those having charge of the escaped train, I was not advised of the accident until noon, some two hours after the return of the train, when the quartermaster, Lieutenant [William W.] McFarland, notified me.

At 1, Colonel Engelmann, of the Forty-third Illinois, with 200 men, proceeded by train to the scene of disaster. Some two cars had been burned, a fire built in the tender, without serious injury, the wires cut, and the track somewhat damaged. The damaged cars were thrown from the track; the engine and other cars replaced. When the Jackson train came down, I placed upon it two companies of the One hundred and sixth Illinois, under Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, to secure the

safety of that train, and, if necessary, aid the detachment which preceded it. Immediately on receiving intelligence, I sent detachments of the First West Tennessee Cavalry, who scoured the country along the railroad beyond Middleburg, toward Somerville, and as far as Whiteville, where they captured G. W. Cashea, of Captain Colter's company, Forrest's cavalry, who says the attacking force consisted of three companies of Forrest's and a portion of Street's band, about 100 strong. I am informed that on the occurrence of the accident, information was sent to Grand Junction, and the forces at that point placed in line of battle, standing in defensive attitude until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, about which time an imposing force moved out to where the trouble occurred, finding there the force from Bolivar, and the damages in course of repair. The scene of accident, and in this direction (including Hickory Valley Station) being outside my command, I am not advised what forces were on guard, or whether any further casualties occurred than I have mentioned.

The expedition from Bolivar returned safely, having performed gallantly and well the duty assigned them. The attacking force appears to be the same that has for some time infested the neighborhood south of here, and were probably attracted to the point by the expectation of capturing a train bearing public funds and feebly defended. I think they fled north to join Richardson, not even waiting to do serious mischief after the paymaster escaped them.

I think proper to advise you that, upon reliable information, I conclude that Richardson is now stronger than last week, when annihilated by the newspapers.

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

M. BRAYMAN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Capt. T. H. HARRIS,
Acting Adjutant-General.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding Fifth Military District.

PANOLA, *March* 28, 1863.

Capts. S. G. Street and Wilson, with 80 men, made a gallant dash behind the enemy at Grand Junction; threw a construction train off the track within 5 miles of the Junction, and burned it; captured 16 white prisoners and 16 free Americans of African descent.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

MARCH 21–22, 1863.—Scout from La Grange to Saulsbury, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Reuben Loomis, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *March* 22, 1863.

COLONEL: In pursuance of your orders of the 21st instant, I proceeded with the effective force of the regiment and four guns of the battery to Grand Junction, Tenn. There I was informed by the officer in

command of the post that the depredations which had been committed on the railroad a few miles from that point were supposed to have been done by [S. G.] Street and a certain Captain White, of guerrilla notoriety, and their command consisted of about 34 men. Thinking we could manage the aforesaid force without the battery, I ordered it back to La Grange, to report to you. We then proceeded on the State Line road in the direction of Saulsbury. After marching about 2 miles, I divided my command, Captain Sloan taking command of Companies C, D, E, F, G, and H, and proceeded on the State Line road in the direction of Saulsbury, with instructions to scour the country on his route generally, and to make connection with me or the rest of the command at Saulsbury.

I then proceeded to the railroad, and found the wreck that Street had made of the train. My object in going to this point was that I might possibly get the direction which the guerrillas had taken; but, after observation, we found, after the rebels had left the railroad, they divided in parties of some four or five, and had gone in all directions. I then took up the march in the direction of Saulsbury, but after leaving the railroad about one-half mile, I sent Captain Pierce, in command of Companies A and B, to the left, whilst I, with the remainder of the command, went to the right. We scoured the country throughout, and met at Saulsbury without any correct report or definite idea as to where Street was or had gone. We remained in Saulsbury some two hours, waiting for Captain Sloan to make connection, during which time we fed our horses, and sought information concerning Street, but gained but little. Finally Captain Sloan arrived. He had been somewhat more successful than I had been; he had heard of Street, but he was some six hours ahead, and making his route in three parties through the woods and fields. One of said parties consisted of 9 Union prisoners; another consisted of a gang of negroes to the number of 20 or 30; whilst the third was mounted, and seemed to be a kind of an advance guard or generally lookers-out.

The enemy having so much the start of us, I considered it useless to make further pursuit, and as there was no forage in the immediate neighborhood, I returned to camp, where we arrived about 1 a. m.

Hoping this may prove satisfactory, I remain your most obedient servant,

R. LOOMIS,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Col. B. H. GRIERSON,
Commanding First Cavalry Brigade.

MARCH 24, 1863.—Skirmish on Davis' Mill road, near La Grange, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Reuben Loomis, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *March* 24, 1863.

COLONEL: This evening I was informed that the Second Iowa pickets, standing on the road running southeast from this place, had been attacked by a party of guerrillas, and two of them were captured. I instantly took about 50 men and went in pursuit of them. We traveled about 15 miles double-quick, came upon them, killed 3, recaptured our men, and took 3 prisoners. We stopped at a house where there were

4 or 5 men who called themselves citizens, but I am under the impression they are part of the above-named party.

Herewith I send you 3 prisoners, as follows, viz: W. L. Barrett, W. T. Bowlend, and L. W. Mills, whom you can dispose of as you think best.

Hoping that this may prove satisfactory, I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. LOOMIS,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

Col. B. H. GRIERSON,
Commanding First Cavalry Brigade.

MARCH 25, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg batteries by the Switzerland, and destruction of the Lancaster.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen Alfred W. Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding Mississippi Marine Brigade.

No. 2.—Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding U. S. steam ram Switzerland.

No. 3.—Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding U. S. steam ram Lancaster.

No. 4.—Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding at Vicksburg.

No. 5.—Brig. Gen. Seth M. Barton, C. S. Army, commanding brigade.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Alfred W. Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding Mississippi Marine Brigade.

FLAG-SHIP AUTOCRAT,
Above Vicksburg, March 26, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that on yesterday, in response to a request made by Admiral Farragut for two rams to aid him in maintaining possession of the Mississippi River between Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and to destroy the enemy's communications from Red River, I ordered the Switzerland and Lancaster, the latter in command of Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet, the former commanded by Maj. John Lawrence, the expedition being under the command of Col. Charles R. Ellet, who was on the Switzerland in person, to pass the batteries and join Admiral Farragut below. I regret to say that in the performance of this order the Lancaster was blown up and totally destroyed by the terrible fire from the enemy's batteries. The Switzerland also received a 10-inch shell in her boilers when opposite the center of the enemy's line of defenses, totally disabling her. She floated past, and finally escaped without more serious injury. I have now on board a large force of mechanics, who will have her repaired, and in a few days again ready for efficient service.

I inclose a copy of the letter received from Admiral Farragut, which, taken in connection with my own knowledge of the great importance of the interest involved, induced me to undertake the enterprise.

I deem it proper in this report to call your special attention to the great gallantry displayed by the officers and men composing the crews of these vessels under circumstances of the most imminent peril. When

I arrived on board the Switzerland, which I did, in company with W. D. Crandall, assistant adjutant-general, as soon as I discovered that she was disabled, I found perfect order prevailing; although the shot were still falling fast, not a man showed the slightest trepidation, and a proud determination was expressed never to lower the tattered remnant of a flag yet flying, which had been run up by their colonel's own hands in reply to the enemy's wild clamor when they supposed that his boat was destroyed by seeing the escape of steam. Of Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet, I must make special mention, who, after saving his own crew from the sunken Lancaster, was pulled in an open yawl by two negroes, through a terrible fire of shell and grape, for a distance of near 2 miles, to offer his assistance to the crew of the disabled Switzerland.

I inclose the separate reports of Col. Charles R. Ellet and Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED W. ELLET,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

U. S. FLAG-SHIP HARTFORD,
Below Vicksburg, March 23, 1863.

Brig. Gen. ALFRED W. ELLET,
Commanding Mississippi Marine Brigade:

GENERAL: I have written Admiral Porter to the effect that I am most desirous of having an iron-clad gunboat and two rams below Vicksburg, to maintain the control of the river between this place and Port Hudson. The Red River trade is now the only resource of the enemy for their supplies at both Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The failure of my vessels to get by Port Hudson has reduced me to the necessity of asking the above assistance from Admiral Porter, but I am unwilling to interfere with the admiral's command in any way, but I feel assured that if he were here he would grant the assistance I so much need to carry out this great object. I beg to assure you that nothing would be more gratifying to me than to have two of your rams, and I remain, truly, your obedient servant,

D. G. FARRAGUT,
Rear-Admiral.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HEADQUARTERS MISSISSIPPI MARINE BRIGADE,
Flag-ship Autocrat, March 24, 1863.

Captain WALKE, *Commanding La Fayette:*

CAPTAIN: I have received a written communication from Admiral Farragut, in which he informs me that he had requested from Admiral Porter an iron-clad gunboat and two rams, to enable him to hold the river between Vicksburg and Port Hudson.

In consequence of the failure to get the fleet above that point, he is entirely too weak to accomplish this great object unaided. It is my purpose to send past the batteries to-night, in compliance with this request, the Switzerland and Lancaster, and shall be glad, if you conclude to send a gunboat, to be informed, that we may act in concert.

Very respectfully,

ALFRED W. ELLET,
Brigadier-General.

[Inclosure No. 3.]

HEADQUARTERS MISSISSIPPI MARINE BRIGADE,
Flag-ship Autocrat, above Vicksburg, March 24, 1863.

Col. CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Commanding Ram Fleet:

COLONEL: You will proceed in command of the steam rams Switzerland and Lancaster to pass the batteries at Vicksburg to-night, and report to Admiral Farragut below. Take every precaution to prevent lights being seen on your boats during the passage down.

Take only men enough to run the boats; have the yawls on the starboard guards for instant use in case of necessity, and hang knotted ropes from either side to the water's edge, to which men could hang to avoid steam.

You will not, in the event that either boat is disabled, attempt under fire of the batteries to help her off with the other boat, but will run on down, it being of primary importance that one boat at least should get safely by.

The purpose for which you are sent below is to assist in keeping possession of the river between Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and cutting off the enemy's communications with and supplies from Red River and its tributaries, and to aid in repelling the rebel rams and cotton-clad steamers if they should attack Farragut's vessels.

You will afford all the aid in your power to the military force which will attack Warrenton to-morrow.

Report to me by every convenient opportunity.

Very respectfully,

ALFRED W. ELLET,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure No. 4.]

UNITED STATES MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON,
Yazoo River, March 25, 1863.

Brig. Gen. ALFRED W. ELLET,
Commanding Marine Brigade, Mississippi Squadron:

GENERAL: Will you please inform me by what authority you sent the rams Lancaster and Switzerland past the batteries at Vicksburg, in open day, and without taking any precaution to guard their hulls? One of these vessels has, in consequence, been sunk, and the other damaged extensively, which might very well have been expected under the circumstances. You will also inform me who were the commanders of these vessels, and all the circumstances attending this unfortunate affair.

Very respectfully, &c.,

DAVID D. PORTER,
Acting Rear-Admiral, Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

[Inclosure No. 5.]

HEADQUARTERS MISSISSIPPI MARINE BRIGADE,
Flag-ship Autocrat, above Vicksburg, March 25, 1863.

DAVID D. PORTER,
Acting Rear-Admiral, Mississippi Squadron:

ADMIRAL: In compliance with your instructions, I would respectfully report that the Switzerland and Lancaster were sent past the batteries

of Vicksburg by my order this morning, in consequence of receiving an urgent request from Admiral Farragut for their assistance to aid him in keeping the river open from Vicksburg to Port Hudson, and in destroying the enemy's communications from Red River, and also for the purpose of passing troops over the river to Warrenton, to aid in the destruction of the formidable batteries now being constructed at that point.

The boats started before daylight. You have been misinformed of the passage being made in open day. It is true that, in consequence of the injury that the boats sustained, they did not get past before the sun had risen, yet, if they had not been injured and obliged to float, they would have made the passage before it was fully light.

The Lancaster, I regret to say, is a total loss. Her boilers were exploded, and being a very rotten boat, she went to pieces and sank immediately. She was commanded by Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet. The Switzerland was commanded by Col. Charles R. Ellet in person, who also commanded the expedition. She received a number of shots, but, being a stronger boat, was not much injured. Her boiler was exploded by a plunging shot; in other respects the damage was not material. She will be repaired in a few days, and is in a position where I trust she will be able to redeem whatever of mishap has attended the passage of the Vicksburg batteries.

Very respectfully,

ALFRED W. ELLET,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

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OFF FLAG-SHIP AUTOCRAT,
Via Cairo, April 13, 1863—5.25 p. m.

HON. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch of this date.

A detailed report of the loss of the Lancaster on the morning of the 25th instant [ultimo] before Vicksburg was sent to you by mail the following day, together with a copy of the letter from Admiral Farragut asking the aid of two rams and one iron-clad gunboat.

Admiral Porter was absent. Captain Walke would not take the responsibility to respond, not having yet reported to Admiral Porter, and, conceiving the case to be one of urgent necessity, I offered to take the responsibility, and send the Lancaster and Switzerland. Admiral Farragut gladly accepted the offer, and the boats went.

I do not conceive that I acted against orders, not having yet received any orders from anybody, except those emanating direct from your Department, to report to Admiral Porter for duty as soon as my brigade was formed.

If my acts meet with your approval, I shall little regard any efforts of others to misrepresent me.

I will forward you immediately duplicate copies of my report and Admiral Farragut's letter by mail.

Very respectfully,

ALFRED W. ELLET,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

No. 2.

Report of Col. Charles Rivers Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding U. S. steam ram Switzerland.

U. S. STEAM RAM SWITZERLAND,
Below Vicksburg, March 25, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report to you that, in compliance with your instructions, I started before daybreak this morning, with the rams Switzerland and Lancaster, to pass the Vicksburg batteries. The short time which I was allowed for preparations, and the necessity of taking in large quantities of stores and provisions, delayed our departure until it was nearly light. The wind was extremely unfavorable, and, notwithstanding the caution with which the boats put out into the middle of the stream, the puff of their escape-pipes could be heard with fatal distinctness below. The flashing of the enemy's signal lights from battery to battery as we neared the city showed me that concealment was useless. The morning, too, was beginning to break, and I saw that, if we were to pass at all, it was to be done at once. I ordered my pilots to give the Switzerland full headway, and we went round the point under 160 pounds of steam. The rebels opened fire at once, but the first fifteen or twenty shots were badly aimed. As we got nearer to the guns, however, the fire became both accurate and rapid. Shot after shot struck my boat, tearing everything to pieces before them. A few hundred yards behind us the Lancaster, under command of Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet, still steamed steadily down, but I could see the splinters fly from her at every discharge. When about three-quarters of a mile below the point, and full in front of the enemy's heaviest guns, a 10-inch shell plunged through the boiler deck of the Switzerland and into her center boiler. The explosion of steam which ensued was very severe, and was welcomed by the traitors with shouts of exultation. The engines stopped at once, and even the pilot-house was filled to suffocation with the hot steam, but the pilots stood to their posts like men, and, by my order, kept her out in the stream, when she floated down with the current. The enemy relaxed their fire, and the steam had scarcely cleared away from the Switzerland when I saw the Lancaster blown up. She commenced to sink rapidly, and in a few moments went down, bow foremost.

I ordered the crew of the Switzerland into as secure a position as possible, and floated past the remaining batteries without any loss of life or material damage to the boat. A few moments after your arrival on board with Adjutant-General Crandall, and when opposite the mouth of the canal, Lieutenant-Colonel Ellet came alongside in a yawl, having rowed down to us through a fire of grape and shell, to offer us any assistance in his power. He had previously set ashore his own crew and wounded men and fired the upper works of his boat. When out of range, the Switzerland was met by the Albatross and towed into shore.

I cannot conclude this report without referring to the heroic conduct of the officers and crew of the Switzerland. No fear or lack of discipline was exhibited by any person on board, and although we were within a pistol-shot of shore, not a man attempted to desert the boat or to leave his post without orders. Among those who especially distinguished themselves by their resolution and courage were Maj. John W. Lawrence, Pilot Alexander McKay, Lieut. Edward C. Ellet, and Third Engineer Granville Roberts. This is the second time that the three last-

named officers have passed the batteries at Vicksburg. The damage to the Switzerland's boilers is considerable, but will be repaired in a few days by the machinists now on board; her engines and hull are in good condition. Her loss comprises only 3 negroes badly scalded; 1 man on the Lancaster was drowned, another severely scalded, and Pilot T. W. L. Kitson lost a foot. The very limited loss of life on both boats is due to the extremely small number of men who were selected to run the boats through. The remainder of the crews were sent across by land.

I inclose Lieutenant-Colonel Ellet's report of the Lancaster.

Very respectfully,

CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Colonel, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. ALFRED W. ELLET,
Commanding Mississippi Marine Brigade.

No. 3.

Report of Lieut. Col. John A. Ellet, U. S. Army, commanding U. S. steam ram Lancaster.

FLAG-SHIP AUTOCRAT,
Above Vicksburg, March 25, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to your instructions, I left my anchorage above the mouth of the canal at 4.30 o'clock this morning on board the U. S. steam ram Lancaster, for the purpose of running the enemy's batteries at Vicksburg. The lights were all extinguished, and every precaution taken to prevent giving any knowledge of our approach. I endeavored to conduct the movements of my vessel as silently as possible, allowing her to float part of the time, and occasionally righting her up by going ahead on the slow bell. Unfortunately the escape of steam from her smoke-stacks was very loud. In addition to this, the night was clear, calm, and starlight, with a slight breeze setting from us directly toward the rebel batteries. From the character of the night and the warmth of our reception, I am led to believe that our very first movements were heard by the enemy. Keeping the distance of about 200 yards between my vessel and the Switzerland, I approached within about half a mile of the point of the peninsula very slowly, when the sudden flashes of signals along the whole line of the enemy's works gave unmistakable evidence that our movements were apprehended. I then ordered on a full head of steam, expecting every moment to receive the enemy's fire. When within about 400 yards of the point of the peninsula, the enemy opened upon me with a brisk fire from the upper batteries, but the shot fell wide of the mark.

Rounding the point, I ordered the pilot to steer well to the starboard, to prevent following immediately in the wake of the Switzerland. When just abreast of the upper batteries, the first shot struck my vessel, passing through both smoke-stacks. The fire continued almost incessantly, but without serious damage, for about five minutes after this time, when a heavy shot passed through the vessel immediately under the pilot-house, carrying away the steps which led from the cabin into the pilot-house, and wounding Mr. T. W. L. Kitson, steersman, whom I had placed at the foot of the steps to be in readiness to take the wheel should my

other pilot be disabled. We were now just opposite the water batteries, and they poured a very active fire upon us, striking the vessel in every part but a vital one. At this time I entertained the most sanguine expectations of getting my vessel past in safety. This thought, however, was speedily dispelled by a heavy shot, which exploded the steam-drum, and enveloped the entire vessel in a terrible cloud of steam, driving the engineers and firemen from their posts, and compelling every one upon the lower and gun deck to seek the bow of the boat outside of the wooden bulkhead, when a friendly breeze shielded them from the excruciating tortures of the hot steam.

About this time a heavy plunging shot struck her in the frailest part of her stern, passing longitudinally through her, and piercing the hull in the center near the bow, causing an enormous leak in the vessel. The pilot, Mr. Andrew J. Dennis, remained at the wheel, giving direction to the helpless vessel, until the wheel was demolished by a shot, from the effects of which he miraculously escaped. He reported the damage to me, and I sent him below to control the tiller-ropes by hand, and then went down myself to ascertain the condition of the hull. I found her sinking very fast, and partly turned around by an eddy, so that her starboard side was subjected to the hottest fire. I therefore ordered the two yawls to be brought from the starboard side to the larboard quarter of the bow, where the hull of the vessel afforded them the greatest protection, and then ordered my men to take to their boats, first providing for the wounded and scalded.

The water was by this time running over the decks, and I found it would be impossible to secure her to the shore. I therefore set her upper works on fire, by discharging my pistols into the cotton. This was superfluous, however, for in a few minutes afterward she plunged into the flood, bow foremost.

I had an abundance of room in my two yawls for every soul on board, but, unfortunately, some of my men attempted to swim ashore. In so doing, Orderly Sergt. William [H.] McDonald was drowned. While in our yawls, making our escape from the sinking wreck, we were subjected to a galling fire of shot and shell. As soon as the yawls reached the shore, the men sought shelter in the neighboring woods. I expressed my determination to go to the Switzerland, and two faithful negroes rowed me to her.

* * * * * * *

My officers, soldiers, and boatmen behaved with the utmost coolness and courage.

There are some instances of heroic daring which deserve special mention. Among these were George W. Lindsey, first master; Henry S. Brown, chief engineer; Andrew J. Dennis, pilot; T. W. L. Kitson, steersman; George W. Andrews, carpenter, and Samuel Weaver, engineer. The two latter gentlemen passed the Vicksburg batteries on a former occasion on board the Queen of the West. It is extremely difficult to designate individuals when all did so nobly, without doing injustice, but these men came under my own personal observation and challenged my admiration by their great gallantry.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. ELLET,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Lancaster.

Col. CHARLES RIVERS ELLET,
Commanding Ram Fleet.

No. 4.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding at Vicksburg.

HDQRS. SECOND DISTRICT, DEPT. OF MISS. AND E. LA.,
Vicksburg, March 25, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that, about 5.30 o'clock this morning, two boats attempted to pass our batteries. One of them was sunk about 2 miles below the town, with almost all on board; the other was seriously disabled. When she had floated out of range of our batteries, the gunboat Albatross (heretofore called, it is thought by mistake, the Monongahela) took her in tow. She is now helpless, and it will apparently take some time for them to repair her damages. During the engagement the Hartford moved up from below Warrenton, engaging the fort there.

She approached so near that our musketry drove the gunners from the guns, when she withdrew. The officer whom I sent to Mobile and Montgomery has succeeded in obtaining a good deal of powder and projectiles for my heavy guns. It cannot pass either Meridian or Jackson without your orders; please give such that will secure its speedy arrival. I send you on the train to-day two Federal deserters and a negro taken in the act of carrying dispatches for the enemy. One of the deserters is an intelligent man, and some information can perhaps be derived from him. I inclose herewith a list of the ordnance and ordnance stores sent General Loring.*

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant General.

VICKSBURG, *March* 25, 1863.

The boat which passed this morning was towed ashore just above Brown & Johnston's landing, where she now lies apparently a wreck. The Hartford, in passing up to her assistance, engaged our iron casemates at Warrenton for some twenty minutes, during which she was roughly handled, being struck some twenty-six times. We had mounted four Parrott guns in the casemate since she went down. General [S. D.] Lee is advancing slowly. Nothing from Featherston. A regiment, the 32-pounder ammunition, and one cotton boat went to General Loring to-day.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

No. 5.

Report of Brig. Gen. Seth M. Barton, C. S. Army, commanding Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS, SOUTH,
March 25, 1863—6 p. m.

MAJOR: All remains quiet. The enemy is still hard at work at his repairs; mine are finished. I was mistaken in saying in my 8 o'clock

* Omitted.

dispatch that the parapet had been pierced; its top was merely raked. To-night all will be completely covered where the slightest danger exists, and be ready for the fleet. The Hartford must have suffered greatly; every shot struck her (twenty-six in all); some went entirely through. She was driven from every position she took. A part of the iron that was cut off slipped down and covered one embrasure, depriving us of the use of one gun from the beginning. Some steel punch-headed shot did all the damage.

Very respectfully,

S. M. BARTON,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MARCH — -APRIL 1, 1863.—Expedition to Booneville, Miss.

Report of Col. Patrick E. Burke, Sixty-sixth Illinois Infantry.

CAMP DAVIES, MISS., *April* 1, 1863.

The expedition to Booneville has returned, bringing 6 prisoners, among whom is the notorious Sam. White, guerrilla, robber, and cotton-burner. They also captured a few horses. Billingsley is all right, and all he said was found to be correct. I regret to have to state that the failure of the expedition is by the officers attributed to the timidity or gross carelessness of Lieutenant-Colonel [Charles W.] Smith, commanding the expedition. The enemy were completely surrounded, except where the infantry were expected to cover, when they were unfortunately halted within half a mile of the enemy and ordered to make coffee and take breakfast. I hope the official reports, when they come in, will brighten the gloomy aspect of the case. Will send full particulars to-morrow.

P. E. BURKE,
Colonel, Commanding.

General GRENVILLE M. DODGE.

MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 1863.—Expeditions from La Grange to Moscow and Macon, and action near Belmont, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, Sixteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Reuben Loomis, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.

No. 1.

Report of Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, Sixteenth Army Corps.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *April* 4, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to verbal instructions received from Brig. Gen. W. Sooy Smith, on the 28th of

March I dispatched 200 of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Major Nelson, to proceed westward toward Moscow, and strike the trail of the party who had attacked the train near Moscow. I at the same time sent a force of 200 men of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Loomis, to proceed toward Somerville; thence westward, with instructions to endeavor to intercept the enemy with prisoners from the train, and form a junction with the expedition under Major Nelson.

This latter officer proceeded westward, struck the trail of the enemy, and followed them to Macon, where, although they were but a few miles in advance, and had prisoners, dismounted, he gave up the pursuit, and returned to camp, failing to comply with his instructions to form a junction with Colonel Loomis.

The expedition from the Sixth Illinois Cavalry proceeded to Somerville; thence westward, struck the trail of the rebels, overtook and skirmished with them, killing and capturing a number, among the latter Captain [R.] Burrow.

On the night of March 29, they were attacked while in bivouac by a superior force, under Colonel [R. V.] Richardson, and although they were in a manner surprised and a number killed in beds, yet they rallied and drove the enemy from the field, and remained in full possession. For full particulars of this expedition, I refer you to the report of Lieutenant-Colonel Loomis, herewith inclosed.

Too much honor cannot be awarded to the officers and men present on the occasion for their unprecedented coolness and gallantry. Among the slain was First Lieut. Jesse B. Wilson, of Company K, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, whose loss to the country and his friends is an irretrievable one.

Colonel Loomis returned to camp on the night of the 30th, bringing the first intelligence of the encounter. I immediately started with the effective force of the brigade, about 550 strong. Marched all night, and arrived at the scene of the engagement about 11 o'clock on the morning of the 30th. Having arrived in the vicinity of the place, I sent two companies forward to dash into the place and endeavor to capture any of the enemy who might be there. Upon their approach, about 35 of the rebels fled precipitately. We followed them closely, and succeeded in killing 3, wounding and capturing several more.

Having buried the dead and properly disposed of such of the wounded as could be moved in the ambulances, we proceeded to the plantation of Lewis P. Williamson, and bivouacked for the night.

The following morning the wounded and prisoners were sent back under proper escort, and, dividing the rest of the command into two parties, we proceeded in pursuit of the enemy. Major Blackburn proceeded to Mason's Depot, where he captured a quantity of secesh army clothing and trimmings, which were destroyed. With the rest of the force I proceeded westward, scouting the country, and forming a junction with Major Blackburn at Concordia.

After feeding, we again started in different directions, and encamped for the night at the plantation of Mr. Montague, north of the Hatchie River, where we found a quantity of cavalry saddles and a shop for the manufacture of the same. The shop and saddles were destroyed, and his son, who was engaged in the business, taken into custody.

The next morning I crossed the Hatchie River with part of my force at Quin's Bridge, and sent the balance eastward to cross at Cannon's Bridge. After crossing the river, the forces were divided into small parties, and scattered over all the by-roads and lanes, with instructions to meet the main column at Macon. The whole force arrived there at

almost the same time, having succeeded in capturing a number of prisoners, among whom were the quartermaster of Richardson's regiment and his private secretary, with a number of papers.

While in Moscow a portion of the mail captured on the train was retaken, and the man upon whom it was found resisting when attempt was made to capture him, was killed. He was a member of Porter's guerrilla band.

Having encamped for the night about 3 miles southeast of Macon, we returned to this place, via Moscow, on April 3, arriving about noon.

The expeditions under Lieutenant-Colonel Loomis and myself succeeded in killing about 20, wounding from 40 to 50, many of them mortally, and capturing about 50. Our loss was 15 killed, 37 wounded, and 2 captured.

When it is remembered that the engagement on the night of March 29 did not last over ten minutes, the desperation of the conflict can be imagined.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. H. GRIERSON,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Capt. H. ATKINSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. Reuben Loomis, Sixth Illinois Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH ILLINOIS CAVALRY,
La Grange, Tenn., April 1, 1863.

COLONEL: In obedience to your order of March 28, received at 11 a. m., I started at 12 m. with 250 men, with one day's rations, in pursuit of the guerrillas that had temporarily captured that morning a train on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, between La Fayette and Moscow.

Understanding that the Seventh Illinois Cavalry was to proceed direct to the place of capture and follow the trail from there, I proceeded at once to Somerville, there killing 1 and capturing some 15 suspicious characters and soldiers, and proceeded toward Memphis about 5 miles, and encamped for the night.

On the morning of the 29th, I detailed Companies B and E, under command of Captain Lynch, to return to camp with the prisoners. A few soldiers from the different companies, who were too much exhausted to pursue the chase farther, accompanied them, amounting in all to 50 men. I here learned that the prisoners captured from the train had passed through Oakland, 7 miles distant, just at night the previous day, and proceeded immediately in pursuit, passing through Oakland and continuing our course to Hickory Wythe; thence north to Murray's Bridge, on the Loosahatchee, where we found some 15 of Colonel Richardson's command endeavoring to destroy the bridge; but as we had been in close pursuit for miles, and had ridden very fast, they had not time to do it any damage. Charging upon them at once, after a race of some 5 miles, we captured 7. We then proceeded about 2 miles farther in the direction of Colonel Richardson's camp, when we came upon Captain Burrow, in command of a large part of Colonel Richardson's force, drawn up in line of battle, awaiting our approach,

intending to give us battle, having notified a citizen living near to remove his family, as "they were about to have a fight there." As usual, they only awaited the approach of our advance guard, when they turned and fled, giving our weary horses another chase, resulting in the capture of Captain Burrow and several men, and wounding several others.

We then proceeded to Colonel Richardson's camp of the previous day, destroying the buildings used for their purposes, and, after feeding and resting our horses a short time, proceeded on in a northeast course, still hoping to recapture the train prisoners. I was still expecting that the Seventh Illinois Cavalry would overtake me at every moment, not having heard from it since leaving camp. We encamped for the night on the plantation of Mr. Rives, 2 miles southwest of Belmont.

Knowing our close proximity to Colonel Richardson's superior force, I posted stronger pickets than usual, having about one-half of my force on guard as picket, camp, and prisoner guards, leaving but about 100 weary, hungry, and sleepy men to rest, who had ridden 50 miles that day, with nothing to eat but meat, and who had been up most of the previous night on guard. Yet, notwithstanding all these precautions, our camp was attacked at midnight by Colonel Richardson's force of from 400 to 600, who had eluded the pickets by dismounting and approaching under cover of a small ravine until within a few yards of our camp, when, at a preconcerted signal, they poured a murderous fire on my command, who, aroused thus suddenly, arose, arms in hand, and returned their fire with such obstinate firmness and dreadful effect that within five minutes from the time the attack commenced they were repulsed with heavy loss, leaving us in complete possession of the field, which we held until about 9 a. m. on the 31st, attending to the killed and wounded on both sides, when we started for camp with our prisoners and all of our wounded that could ride, which we reached at about 7 p. m.

Our loss was 52 killed and wounded; Colonel Richardson's supposed to have been far greater, himself wounded, his major wounded and captured, his adjutant killed, and several other officers, whose names I have not got, killed, wounded, or captured.

Inclosed I hand you a complete list of the killed and wounded of my command.* A close examination of the same, together with the situation of the parties engaged, will enable you to realize the character of the conflict while it lasted.

It would be invidious for me to designate the names of any in particular where all have done so nobly, yet among the fallen I cannot forbear to mention the name of Lieut. Jesse B. Wilson, of Company K, who was among the first to fall while gallantly cheering his men on, telling them to stand firm, but to screen themselves as much as possible behind fences, &c., himself openly standing amid the thickest of the conflict, doing so much to encourage his men. In his fall the regiment loses one of its best officers, the company its leader, and his friends at home a worthy relative and noble citizen.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

Your most obedient servant,

R. LOOMIS,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Col. B. H. GRIERSON,
Commanding First Brigade.

* List, omitted, shows 1 officer and 12 men killed, 4 officers and 34 men wounded, and 1 man missing.

MARCH 29, 1863.—Affair at Moscow, Tenn.

Report of Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army.

MEMPHIS, *March* 30, 1863.

SIR: Yesterday a disgraceful incident occurred. The passenger train was seized about 2 miles this side of Moscow by 12 guerrillas, although it had on board 25 soldiers, armed, and 3 or 5 officers, who yet made no attempt to defend themselves and the public property. The engineer when he discovered the guerrillas started his engine with such suddenness as to break the coupling, ran up to Moscow, took down 100 soldiers, and saved the train.

The passengers were robbed, and the officers and soldiers carried off north. If they are returned under parole, I do not intend to receive them.

Pursuant to directions received in January from General Grant, I am now preparing a list of ten families of secessionists to be sent outside the lines, selecting the most wealthy and prominent in position.

A scout whom I sent out a few days since to Panola has just come in. Brigadier-General Chalmers commands the two tiers of northern counties in Mississippi. He has at Panola a battery of six guns; another at or below the Tallahatchee railroad bridge (Memphis and Charleston Railroad); no infantry. He is gathering in and organizing the irregulars.

Falkner's cavalry has come up there from Oxford, about 500 strong. He may be able to concentrate 1,200 or 1,500 men. Every person is being conscripted. They have ammunition, but few arms, except pistols.

It is unquestionably their intention to make a dash on some point of the railroad near Moscow or La Fayette as soon as organized—say, in a week or more. Their movements, however, depend on the success or failure of the Yazoo Pass expedition, of which I regret that I receive no information.

I do not know if it will be possible to throw a force into his rear and cut off his battery from Helena. It is too long a move from here. They would be off before I had gone 15 miles.

From Corinth I am informed that Brigadier-General [S. A. M.] Wood, with about 4,000 men and two batteries, is at Tuscumbia; advance pickets on Bear Creek. I think it a corps of observation only.

The enemy appeared yesterday at Savannah, seized all carpenters and carpenter's tools, and threw a few shell across the river at our cavalry scouts.

Rumors are that they propose to cross. I think this doubtful, but they are closely watched.

General Dodge deserves great credit for his vigilance and activity.

I shall send a regiment of cavalry to stay with Richardson's men, who are banding again. I have their muster-rolls.

The city is quiet.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MARCH 31, 1863.—Engagement at Grand Gulf, Miss.

Report of Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army.

HDQRS. 1ST BRIGADE, 2D DIVISION, ARMY OF MISSISSIPPI,
Grand Gulf, Miss., April 1, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that the enemy's boats, three in number, passed down the river yesterday evening at 8.15. There having been reports of their approach during the day, everything had been held in readiness, the men at their guns and a regiment in the trenches. Night coming on, a detail was left at the guns (enough to manage them) and the infantry bivouacked in position. Owing to the negligence of the signal corps stationed over the river at Hard Times, and who should have been able to give timely notice, no warning was given during the afternoon, and at night no rocket was sent up to apprise us of their approach. They were perceived by the sentinel at the upper battery as they rounded the point and immediately opened upon. About twenty shots were fired from the heavy guns, twenty-one from the field pieces, and twenty-one from the Parrotts of Wade's battery. The vessels were struck repeatedly. Seven heavy shells were seen to take effect, one raking the Hartford from stem to stern. The firing from the field batteries was excellent, the shrapnel bursting over the decks; but I have no means of discovering what damage was inflicted on the ships,* but the steam ram which passed the Vicksburg batteries was struck once amidships, swung round broadside to the current, and floated down thus, firing a lee gun, which could only have been a signal of distress.

All the vessels lay about 10 miles below during the night and passed on down this morning.

I regret to report that one of the 20-pounder Parrott guns burst at the fourth fire, killing 2, mortally wounding 1, and wounding 7, besides some scratches. I append a list.† I entered the battery just as the gun exploded, and it affords me pleasure to bear testimony to the gallant conduct of the men there. Though many were knocked down, besides the wounded, only an imperceptible pause in the firing was occasioned, the men sprung up and to the other guns so quickly. The lieutenant of the burst gun replaced No. 1 of the next piece, who was killed, and it would not have been possible for the enemy to have discovered the accident from any slackening of the fire.

The firing from the upper battery (Captain [J. B.] Grayson's) was excellent. The lower battery, where the accident occurred, was manned by Wade's and Guibor's companies of light artillery.

I inclose a report on the circumstances attending and the causes of the bursting of the gun.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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* Rear-Admiral Farragut, U. S. Navy, reported that the Albatross was not struck; that the Hartford was struck once, killing 1 man; and that the Switzerland was struck twice, but received no damage.

† Nominal list, omitted, reports 2 men killed and 1 officer (Capt. Henry Guibor) and 1 man wounded, of Guibor's battery; 1 officer (Lieut. John Kearney) and 5 men wounded, of Wade's battery.

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,
Grand Gulf, April 1, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have examined the fragments, and inquired into the circumstances attending the loading and firing of the 20-pounder Parrott gun which burst during the action last night, and believe the cause of the disaster was the bursting of a shell in the gun, there being no fuse or an imperfect fuse in the shell. I was to the right and rear of the piece, about 30 yards distant, at the time of the explosion, and saw distinctly its effect. The cascabel was blown to the rear, the lower band entire, the center band broken. The chase and muzzle were blown to the front, and the right fragments of the re-enforce to the "right and rear"; the left fragments to the "left and front." The right wheel was entirely demolished, the left and stock badly broken. The upper wrought-iron band was broken and nearly straight.

There is no apparent flaw in any of the metal, the fractures presenting the usual crystalline surface, devoid of any seam or crack. Parts of the shell were found among the fragments, and no separate explosion of the shell was noticed by any one. If it had burst after the piece, it certainly would have been seen. I am, therefore, satisfied that the shell was ignited and exploded before reaching the chase, thus confining the gases and bursting the piece.

The fragments of the re-enforce will weigh from 5 to 30 pounds.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

MARCH 31–APRIL 3, 1863.—Scout from Lexington to mouth of Duck River, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Thomas Saylor, Third Michigan Cavalry.
No. 2.—Capt. Frederick C. Adamson, Third Michigan Cavalry.

No 1.

Report of Maj. Thomas Saylor, Third Michigan Cavalry.

LEXINGTON, TENN., *April* 3, 1863.

CAPTAIN: On the receipt of the order from headquarters Cavalry Division, date March 30, I immediately moved my command to Lexington; and although I had reliable information relative to the state of affairs this side of the Tennessee River that did not agree with the report received by General Hurlbut, I, on the morning of the 31st instant, sent Captain Adamson with Companies C and B to scout the country in the neighborhood of the mouth of Duck River, as per instructions. The expedition returned to-day, after a successful scout, in which they captured 14 prisoners, the most of whom were armed, destroying a number of boats, and establishing beyond a doubt the falsity of the report of the crossing of a large body of the enemy to this side.

I herewith send the prisoners captured. For their names and cause of arrest I respectfully refer you to the inclosed report of Captain Adamson. To-morrow I will send one company in the neighborhood of Hun-

tingdon, to intercept, if possible, McClanahan and his men on their return. I will also in the morning send one company in the vicinity of Decaturville and Mathenes' Ferry, to attend to the small parties roving around in that neighborhood.

I succeeded in arresting three of the men of the Second West Tennessee Cavalry, as per order by the man Elliott. I put them in charge of Captain Hays, with the assurance from him that he would be responsible for their appearance at Jackson.

I am under the impression that the rations for this detachment are far below the allowances, for, after the greatest economy, they fail to hold out for the time intended.

The Union meeting to-day was a success, and very numerously attended. In connection with this report, I would say that a private of Company F, Eleventh Illinois Cavalry, who was wounded at the fight at this place some four months ago, has been left here since, and has suffered severely for the want of proper medical treatment. I think he ought to be removed to Jackson. His name is Thomas Dungan.

I am, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

THOMAS SAYLOR,
Major, Commanding.

Capt. T. B. WEIR, *Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 2.

Report of Capt. Frederick C. Adamson, Third Michigan Cavalry.

LEXINGTON, TENN., *April* 2, 1863.

SIR: Pursuant to your instructions, I left Lexington on the morning of the 31st ultimo, with Companies C and B, commanded, respectively, by Lieutenants Wirts and Bingham, to scout the country in the vicinity of the mouth of Duck River, and ascertain the truth of the report as to the crossing of any force of the enemy in that vicinity. Passing through Buck Snort, I reached a point on the Camden road some 8 miles from the river, where I learned with certainty that no force had crossed in that vicinity; but ascertaining that McClanahan had crossed near Rock Quarry with some 30 men, I proceeded in that direction, passing through Howesville, and thence east to the house of a noted secessionist named Conrad. I arrested him and his three brothers on the evidence of Dr. Ganess, who states that they have been aiding and abetting the parties of guerrillas in the vicinity.

In the morning I proceeded toward the river, upon reaching which I sent parties in different directions. One squad of 4, under Corporal [Samuel P.] Harvey, of Company C, met 7 of McClanahan's men, well armed with pistols and carbines (dismounted), going to the river with the intention of crossing. The corporal succeeded in capturing the entire party. We also discovered three large flat-boats, which we destroyed completely, as also a small skiff, and on searching some houses in the vicinity found three shot-guns, two rifles, some belts, several boxes of caps, &c., which had been secreted by the guerrillas. The men captured had been in the direction of Clarksburg, with McClanahan and some 20 more. The rest had gone to Trenton, with the intention of conscripting and seizing horses, &c., as McClanahan had received authority to raise a regiment from General Forrest. All those captured had left their horses some 5 miles east of the Tennessee, at the houses of citizens.

I learned from reliable sources that there were parts of two regiments of cavalry (some 600 of Van Dorn's command) at Linden, and scattered in small parties near the river, consequently I did not think it best to run the risk of crossing over to secure the horses. Returning to Conrad's, I found that Lieutenant [Melvin] Stillson, whom I had left there with 10 men to scout that vicinity, had met a couple of guerrillas, and after a long chase captured one, with complete equipments, and the horse of the other. I then moved my command toward Lexington, on the Broady's Ferry road, scouting the country thoroughly for some miles on both sides of the road, arresting one man named George Moore, armed with rifle and pistol, and mounted. I also arrested his brother, James Moore. Both of the men bear bad characters, and are strongly suspected of being connected with the guerrillas. I staid for the night at the house of Los. Moore, and reached Lexington next day at noon, according to instructions. The result of the scout is the ascertaining with certainty that there is no force within 25 miles of the vicinity scouted, excepting some 30 of McClanahan's men, and a squad of 15 who had been robbing in the vicinity of Decaturville; the capture of 9 guerrillas and 5 citizens, 2 horses and saddles, 4 carbines, 4 revolvers, 2 single-barreled pistols, 5 shot-guns, and 4 rifles. I append a list of the prisoners' names.*

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. C. ADAMSON,
Captain Third Michigan Cavalry.

Maj. THOMAS SAYLOR, *Third Michigan Cavalry.*

MARCH 31-APRIL 17, 1863.—Operations from Milliken's Bend to New Carthage, La.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

March 31, 1863.—Skirmish at Richmond, La.
April 4, 1863.—Skirmish at Richmond, La.
5, 1863.—Skirmish near New Carthage, La.
6, 1863.—Skirmish at James' plantation, near New Carthage, La.
7, 1863.—Skirmish near Dunbar's plantation, Bayou Vidal, La.
8, 1863.—Skirmish at James' plantation, near New Carthage, La.
15, 1863.—Skirmish near Dunbar's plantation, Bayou Vidal, La.

REPORTS.†

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus, U. S. Army, commanding Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Walter B. Scates, assistant adjutant-general Thirteenth Army Corps.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army, commanding at Grand Gulf.

No. 1.

Reports of Brig. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus, U. S. Army, commanding Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.

HDQRS. ADVANCE OF THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Smith's Plantation, April 6, 1863—10 a. m.

GENERAL: I just returned from the marine expedition to New Carthage. I left this morning after sunrise with 54 men and one mountain

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* Omitted. † See also McClernand's general report, p. 139.

howitzer; the latter, with 25 men, aboard the flat which I had sided up with 3-inch plank in gunboat style. Another party of infantry went in yawls and skiffs around the *crevasses*. We reached New Carthage at 7 o'clock, and pushed a picket forward on the Mississippi levee to James' plantation (on the map laid down as Ton lale Tarlton's), where they were fired upon by a small squad of rebels. I left one company of the Sixty-ninth Indiana at New Carthage, with their pickets at James'. They are perfectly secure, as only the levee is out of water, and they cannot be flanked. The enemy left yesterday his camp at Judge Perkins' plantation for Saint Joseph Lake. From the information received by Mr. James, the battalion of Major [Isaac F.] Harrison numbers four companies mounted men, about 60 men each, and one battery of six smooth-bore 6-pounder guns. There is a continued levee all the way from New Carthage to Saint Joseph, and the land beyond the Bayou Vidal, where it runs up to Perkins' plantation, is not submerged.

I have not the remotest doubt as to the practicability of the Bayou Vidal for boating purposes. It is a deep, straight channel; only very light obstructions between the *crevasse* and the Mississippi, and a few hours' work will clear them away. I intend to move one regiment to James' quarters. In this case Mr. James (an old gentleman) wishes to go to his place below, where his negroes are. He has not seen anything of our forces, and I see no reason why [we should] not let him go, but would not act before having your advice. Please give me your orders in that matter. I also wish to concentrate the whole First Brigade (five battalions) and Lanphere's battery around this camp, and shift the Second Brigade to and around Richmond. You will also be kind enough to let me know if you agree.

Yesterday the howitzers shelled the enemy out of their refuges beyond the bayou. A few made their appearance toward evening, and opened fire on my pickets. They replied, and killed 1 rebel (shot through the breast and spinal column broken); nobody hurt here. Mr. Patterson will report about Roundaway Bayou. The wreck of the Indianola is visible at New Carthage, one wheel-house standing out of the water. The fight where she was lost was in front of New Carthage. The plantations of Joseph and Jefferson Davis are also opposite—a very tempting view.

I am, general, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

P. J. OSTERHAUS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND,
Commanding Thirteenth Army Corps.

HDQRS. NINTH DIVISION, THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
New Carthage, La., April 18, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to lay before the major-general commanding the Thirteenth Army Corps a short *résumé* of the operations of the Ninth Division since March 31.

On the 30th, Colonel Bennett was ordered to make a reconnaisance to Richmond with his own regiment (Sixty-ninth Indiana Infantry) and some cavalry (Second Illinois Cavalry), and to examine into the practicability of a road or connection between Richmond, La., and New Carthage, La., on the Mississippi. A copy of General McClernand's instructions to this officer is annexed, marked A.

Colonel Bennett took up his march on the morning of the 31st ultimo, and arrived at Roundaway Bayou, opposite Richmond, about 2 p. m., finding the enemy's cavalry pickets in town. While our men opened fire on them, some of the cavalry crossed the bayou in skiffs and boldly attacked the rebels; these fled precipitately, leaving 2 wounded in our hands and carrying off 7 more.

A personal reconnaissance on April 1, made in pursuance of instructions from corps headquarters (copy of which is annexed, marked B), convinced me of the necessity of a permanent occupation of Richmond, this being a point by which the most necessary subsistence stores were forwarded to the besieged garrison at Vicksburg, the very rich and fertile regions between the Mississippi and Tensas Rivers and Bayou Macon being easily reached by water from Richmond. This reconnaissance also removed all doubts as to the main object of the expedition, viz, the practicability of a road to New Carthage.

General McClernand sharing my opinion as to the importance of Richmond, and desirous of pushing forward the expedition to New Carthage without delay, he ordered re-enforcements to be brought up.

Accordingly, on the 2d instant, I sent the Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry and Twenty-second Kentucky Infantry, with one section of the Seventh Michigan Battery, to Roundaway Bayou, throwing the Sixty-ninth Indiana Infantry and one company of cavalry by boats across that stream, to occupy the town and the road to New Carthage, as far as Stanbrough's plantation (3½ miles out), commanding at that point a road leading to Alligator Lake, and said not to be submerged, where a force of the enemy was said to be encamped. At the same time I directed a reconnaissance to be made by cavalry as far as possible toward New Carthage. These movements were preparatory to an expedition in force, intended to be made on the New Carthage road as soon as a bridge across Roundaway Bayou, which the general had ordered Captain Patterson to build, could be completed. I therefore ordered the remainder of the First Brigade, General Garrard commanding, together with the remaining two sections of the Seventh Michigan Battery, and a battalion of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, with four mountain howitzers, forward from Milliken's Bend to Richmond, at which latter point they arrived on the afternoon of the 3d instant. The cavalry reconnaissance returned the same day, after having advanced about 10 miles, where their farther progress was stopped by a rebel cavalry force at Holmes' plantation.

The bridge across Roundaway Bayou having been completed at 7 p. m. on the 3d instant, the expedition to New Carthage was ordered for the following morning, and was to consist of detachments of the Second and Third Illinois Cavalry and Sixth Missouri Cavalry, amounting to about 250 men, and four mountain howitzers, besides the Forty-ninth and Sixty-ninth Regiments Indiana Infantry, the occupation of Richmond and Stanbrough's plantation being intrusted to General Garrard and the remaining troops.

I crossed the bridge at 5 a. m. on the 4th instant, in the above order, and arrived at Holmes' plantation, where the enemy's rear guard was seen the day before, at 9 a. m.

The last of the rebels left Holmes' on the arrival of my column, and remained all day at a safe but observing distance. I marched on to Smith's plantation, where Roundaway Bayou enters Bayou Vidal. Smith's place is about 2 miles almost due north from Carthage, and the road totally submerged, the only possible communication being by boats. Seeing the enemy's pickets still in my front, I concluded to

march past Smith's, in order to find out, if possible, the locality of the rebel camp.

At Montgomery's I halted the column, pushing a cavalry patrol farther on to Dunbar's plantation, 6 miles below Montgomery's, when they saw the rebels cross Bayou Vidal, and learned that their main camp was on a high ridge on Judge Perkins' tract, between the Mississippi River and Bayou Bridgeman, 6 miles below New Carthage and 4 miles to the south of Dunbar's plantation.

Further inquiry was unnecessary, volumes of water separating and protecting me from them. Leaving a picket of observation at Dunbar's, where the rebels crossed Bayou Vidal, I encamped the detachment of Third Illinois Cavalry at Montgomery's, stationing at the same time pickets at such points between Montgomery's and Dunbar's as could control the enemy's approach. The main body of the expeditionary column I marched back to Smith's plantation, with the consent and approval of Major-General McClernand, who had by this time joined me.

A reconnaissance made by the major-general and myself across the bayou toward New Carthage showed that the water was over all the plantations between Smith's and New Carthage. We advanced along the levee running parallel with Bayou Vidal, and, going around two breaks in the levee, we found our farther progress stopped by the fire of a rebel picket, on the other side of the third and last break. We were now in full sight of the inundated town of New Carthage, and it was evident that communication with the place could only be established by boats.

On our return to Smith's, I immediately commenced preparations to secure a foothold at New Carthage. The enemy had secured all boats and flats, and the nearest one of any size I could hear of was about 8 miles down Bayou Vidal, below Dunbar's, and was protected by a rebel picket. This information I received from an intelligent negro, who came into my lines with 4 of the same complexion. Finding them willing to take the flat from the enemy, I ordered Captain Carnahan, on the 5th instant, to send the colored party and 20 men from the Third Illinois Cavalry to secure the boat.

They started at once and got possession of the flat, but found their return to Smith's plantation disputed by about 50 of the enemy's cavalry, on the east side of the bayou, who opened on the party in the flat at once. This fire was returned by the Third Illinois Cavalry from the other side of the stream so effectually that it commanded the whole attention of the rebels and the flat ran the blockade without injury. The enemy lost 1 killed and 1 badly wounded.

Captain Patterson, who had arrived the same day, was immediately put to work to arrange the flat-boat so as to give protection against musketry fire, and to receive one light gun and the requisite infantry force, for the purpose of taking New Carthage.

Everything was completed the same day and night, and, at 5 a. m. on April 6, I started on the boat for New Carthage. Our advance caused the rebel force to fall back down the Mississippi levee.

Having disembarked the mountain howitzer and the two companies of infantry (one from the Forty-ninth and one from the Sixty-ninth Indiana), I followed up the rebels without delay. They made a stand at the gin on James' plantation, about 1½ miles below New Carthage. It was very important to dislodge them from this point, for the reason that the mansion, quarters, steam gin, grist, and saw mills of James', covering together about 20 acres, were for miles the only dry land on the Mis-

sissippi outside of the levee, and this levee was effectually commanded by the gin. I ordered the attack, and after a struggle of about an hour the rebels were driven out of the gin, leaving one lieutenant (Mr. English) dead in our hands. In order to hold this important place, I moved the whole of the Sixty-ninth Indiana and two mountain howitzers to the gin, securing that place against an attack in front by a system of barricades, and by cutting a deep and wide ditch across the levee. This seemed necessary, as I had learned that the enemy at Perkins' had, in addition to 700 to 900 cavalry, a six-gun battery, and had been on the 5th instant re-enforced by the First Missouri Infantry, Confederate forces, while it would have been indiscreet on my part to risk any other artillery than the mountain howitzers at New Carthage until I had positive information that the enemy's gunboats, Webb and Queen of the West, were not in these waters—a question which I could not get answered.

In order to keep up a secure communication with Richmond and Milliken's Bend, and to protect the levees and roads against injury by the enemy's hands, I made, with the approbation of the major-general commanding the Thirteenth Army Corps, the following disposition of the troops:

The place of the Sixty-ninth Indiana Infantry, now at James' (and leaving only the Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry at Smith's), was filled by the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry and Seventh Michigan Battery; the Seventh Kentucky Infantry, at Surget's, and the One hundred and eighteenth Illinois Infantry, at Holmes'. The Second Brigade, Col. L. A. Sheldon commanding, was to be left at Richmond, together with the First Wisconsin Battery, one regiment being pushed forward to ———'s plantation and another to Menott's. By this disposition of my command, the line of retreat was completely secured, and the position of the enemy was threatened in front by the force at James', and on the flank by the cavalry detachments at Dunbar's. The latter were very annoying to the enemy, cutting them off entirely from all their resources in the way of subsistence, my patrols extending over all the country west to the Tensas River, and securing everything available for our own benefit—so much so that my command lived almost entirely on the country. For these reasons the rebels kept always a large force opposite Dunbar's, annoying my men by an occasional shot. To stop this, I ordered Major [Bacon] Montgomery, of the Sixth Missouri Cavalry, to bring his mountain howitzers to the above point on the 7th instant and shell them at daybreak. This order was executed, and the enemy left pell-mell.

The following day at 11 o'clock the enemy attacked my position at James', bringing two 12-pounder howitzers within 800 yards, and cannonading my men for about three-quarters of an hour. Nobody hurt. The enemy, seeing no result, and afraid to come within range of my infantry, left for their camp again.

On April 9, Lieutenant Stickel, of the Second Illinois Cavalry, whom I had ordered to scour diligently all the country in front of the cavalry in a northwesterly direction, fell in with a recruiting party of the enemy, consisting of 2 lieutenant-colonels, 1 quartermaster-sergeant, 1 sergeant-major, 1 private, and one civilian. Lieutenant Stickel captured them all, and brought them in, with the exception of a sergeant-major, who attempted to run away and was badly wounded, and afterward paroled.

By this time (April 10) the practicability of the route to New Carthage was recognized by headquarters, and other divisions were ordered to

follow me; therefore my line was concentrated between Holmes' and Smith's, preparatory to its final transfer to the Mississippi. This concentration was completed April 12.

The importance of the possession of New Carthage was certainly not underrated by the enemy, and, on April 15, after being re-enforced by three more infantry regiments from Grand Gulf, he attempted a simultaneous attack on our front at James', and on our cavalry force at and near Dunbar's.

At 4 a. m. a regiment had waded Mill Bayou, a few miles west of Dunbar's, and attacked my outpost. These had to fall back on their reserves, who immediately advanced to their support. Further re-enforcements were sent to them at once, and they very successfully repulsed the rebels beyond the above-named bayou.

In this engagement 2 men of the Second Illinois Cavalry were wounded; 1 fatally, since dead. The enemy's loss I could not ascertain. We took 2 of them prisoners.

On the Mississippi, in front of James', large numbers of the enemy had gathered, but, on learning the bad success of the movement on their left flank, they withdrew, and since then we have been altogether unmolested by the rebel force.

The arrival of the gunboats on April 17 placed the position of New Carthage beyond dispute.

Independent of the operations narrated above, an expedition was sent out by General Garrard toward Delhi, for the purpose of intercepting rebel subsistence stores collected at that point; but the object of the expedition was frustrated by the fact that the enemy's force was largely increased. The report of the commanding officer is inclosed herewith, marked C.*

I believe that these operations may be looked upon as, on the whole, very successful. Outside of the military importance of the positions gained, the enemy must feel their loss severely. It cuts him off from all supplies from this region, the resources of which are great—corn, molasses, bacon, and beef abounding along these bayous—and many captured letters give ample evidence of the importance of these supplies to the enemy's garrison at Vicksburg. From the last information I can collect, I gather that over 1,000,000 pounds of beef-cattle have been sent to Vicksburg from this vicinity. All these advantages were gained by the loss of only one single life.

During these operations the division not only subsisted itself, but at the same time secured large amounts of cotton for the United States Government. About 1,000 bales have been sent by the quartermaster to Milliken's Bend, and double the number of bales can be forwarded as soon as the necessary transportation can be had.

In conclusion, I have only to remark that the troops under my command deserve the highest encomiums for their alacrity, zeal, and good discipline during these trying and fatiguing operations. The military qualities they exhibited kept even pace with their sense of good order. Not a single case of wanton destruction has occurred within the lines of the Ninth Division.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,

P. J. OSTERHAUS,

Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers, Comdg. Ninth Division.

Lieut. Col. WALTER B. SCATES,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Hdqrs. Thirteenth Army Corps.

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* Not found.

[Inclosure A.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
March 30, 1863.

Brig. Gen. PETER J. OSTERHAUS,
Commanding Ninth Division:

GENERAL: You will order one regiment, armed and equipped, with 40 rounds of ammunition in their cartridge-boxes, an ammunition wagon laden with suitable ammunition, their camp and garrison equipage, and four days' prepared rations, to report opposite these headquarters by 8 a. m. to-morrow for further orders. I would suggest that the Sixty-ninth Indiana, Colonel Bennett, be detached for the service contemplated.

By order of Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand:

WALTER B. SCATES,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Milliken's Bend, March 30, 1863.

Colonel BENNETT,
Commanding Sixty-ninth Indiana Volunteers:

COLONEL: Besides your own regiment, you will have command of detachments of cavalry and pioneers for the purpose of the important expedition with which you are charged. The main purpose of the expedition is to open a practicable communication for our forces via Richmond, La., between this camp and New Carthage. Of course, the shortest route, whether by land or water, all other things being equal, would be preferable. It is certain that there is a navigable communication between Richmond and New Carthage by Roundaway and Vidal Bayous, and it is also believed that there is a road along the bank of Roundaway Bayou almost the whole distance. That route which you can make available for the passage of troops and trains with the least labor and in the shortest time, you will select, and make available at the earliest practicable moment. The detachment of pioneers, as already mentioned, will be at your command for that purpose, and Lieutenant [William R.] McComas, aide-de-camp and engineer, on my staff, will give you any assistance in his power.

If a practicable route be found, you will not only consider it with reference to passage, but also with reference to its capability of defense, and for this purpose you will select and report suitable sites for posts or garrisons along it. If no practicable route can be found, you will immediately report that fact.

Starting to-morrow, you will march to Richmond, and, upon personal examination, you will decide, in view of military considerations, whether you will encamp on this or the other side of Roundaway Bayou. Upon reaching the bayou at Richmond, it may be found expedient to cross the cavalry first, and send it forward rapidly, under orders to scour the country around Richmond as far as water will permit, for the purpose of capturing hostile parties, preventing the destruction of cotton and other property, verifying the names and political antecedents of its owners, and bringing in beef-cattle. All cotton abandoned by its owners or forfeited by treasonable acts, may be brought in and condemned by a provost-marshal for the use of the United States, in which case the particular lot of cotton and the facts relating to it will be reported to these headquarters.

You will also report to these headquarters daily of the progress of your operations. Any re-enforcements you may request will be promptly forwarded.

While you are authorized to draw provisions and forage from the country, giving receipts to owners, payable upon satisfactory proof of their loyalty at the end of the rebellion, you will be strict and prompt to prevent and punish marauding. Let nothing be taken except by your order.

Until otherwise ordered, you will report to these headquarters, through your division commander, Brigadier-General Osterhaus.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure B.]

HEADQUARTERS THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Milliken's Bend, April 1, 1863.

[General OSTERHAUS,
Commanding Ninth Division:]

GENERAL: Upon the arrival at Richmond of the re-enforcements ordered forward this evening, and the completion of the bridge in process of construction there, you will immediately order forward a detachment of infantry and cavalry, accompanied by mountain howitzers, to reconnoiter, as far as practicable, the road to New Carthage. I think the detachment should consist of two regiments of infantry and all the cavalry you can make available without withdrawing your mounted pickets at Richmond. If you can provide subsistence for them, and should deem it essential to protect the road to New Carthage from interruption, you will leave a detachment behind at some eligible point, under instructions to report at short intervals to you, through the commanding officer at Richmond.

The cavalry party reconnoitering to-day toward New Carthage found a party of the enemy. You will order all such parties to be boldly attacked, and captured or dispersed.

I think it expedient that you should personally conduct the expedition.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN A. McCLERNAND,
Major-General, Commanding.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. Walter B. Scates, Assistant Adjutant-General Thirteenth Army Corps.

SMITH'S PLANTATION, *April* 16, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that early yesterday morning, about 4 o'clock, the pickets at Dunbar's plantation, 4 or 5 miles below here, on Bayou Vidal, were attacked by a superior force, and compelled to fall back upon the reserve, which promptly came to their support, and charged upon the enemy, holding him in check until re-enforced, when the enemy returned, wading through an overflowed field up to the thighs. The attack was made by a full regiment, the First Missouri rebel volunteers, Colonel [A. C.] Riley commanding.

General Osterhaus learned from two prisoners, taken by our forces, and from an intelligent negro, who made his escape from the enemy, that the enemy had out three regiments and a battalion of 450 cavalry, for the purpose of capturing our forces at James' plantation, on the Mississippi, below New Carthage, intending to take the picket at Dunbar's by surprise and then to proceed by Smith's and New Carthage and into the rear of our forces at James' place. The enemy sent a force up the levee, from below James', which waited the success of the flanking movement by Dunbar's, but his repulse defeated the whole scheme. The enemy is doubtless much annoyed by our holding possession of New Carthage and James' plantation. We had 2 wounded, 1 mortally. We are unable to ascertain the casualties on the enemy's side. One of the prisoners is from Pulaski County, Illinois. They were sent in by General Osterhaus. Three or four men who were suffered by the officer of the pickets to go out of the lines to sleep are missing, and are believed to be captured; the matter is under investigation. It is indispensable to our plans to hold New Carthage, and yet it would place it and the two regiments at James' plantation in imminent peril if attacked by the enemy's gunboats.

And while closing this communication, I am informed that a black-looking vessel, supposed to be a rebel ram, showed herself for a moment around the point below New Carthage this evening. This makes it vital that the gunboats should afford protection to our position at New Carthage without delay. The major-general commanding has just learned that firing is heard some considerable distance below New Carthage.

Your most obedient servant,

WALTER B. SCATES,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 3.

Report of Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army, commanding at Grand Gulf.

GRAND GULF,
April 15, 1863.

Colonel [F. M.] Cockrell had a skirmish to-day, killing 2, wounding 3, and capturing 4 of the enemy, releasing a major and a number of women and children held in their lines; also retaking over 100 negroes; captured 5 or 6 horses and equipage.

No loss on our side.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

APRIL 1–16, 1863.—Expedition from Jackson, Tenn., to the Hatchie River, and skirmishes.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Michael K. Lawler, Eighteenth Illinois Infantry, commanding First Brigade, District of Jackson.

No. 2.—Lieut. Col. Daniel H. Brush, Eighteenth Illinois Infantry.

No. 1.

Report of Col. Michael K. Lawler, Eighteenth Illinois Infantry, commanding First Brigade, District of Jackson.

JACKSON, TENN., *April* 17, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I respectfully submit the following report of an expedition to the Hatchie River:

On the morning of the 1st instant, I proceeded, with the Eighteenth Illinois Mounted Infantry, consisting of 15 officers and 285 men, commanded by Lieut. Col. D. H. Brush, to Bolivar, Tenn. At the latter place I received an additional force of a detachment of 11 officers and 175 men of the First West Tennessee Cavalry, commanded by Col. Fielding Hurst, making my entire command 26 commissioned officers and 460 enlisted men.

At noon of the 2d instant, I moved down the Hatchie by three roads, deploying my command in such a manner as to embrace the country lying between a line drawn through Bolivar and Covington, Tipton County, and the Hatchie, and all of that portion of country lying west of Covington and Beaver Creek, to the Mississippi River, and returned in about the same order, but by different routes, arriving at Bolivar on the 10th instant. This move resulted in a few light skirmishes with the enemy, who were broken into small bands of not more than 30 men, nor did I encounter the enemy at any time in greater force than above mentioned.

My command, after much chasing, captured Lieutenant-Colonel [J. U.] Green, Captain [J. H.] Hazlewood, 2 lieutenants, 2 surgeons, and 28 men, of Colonel Richardson's command, and 110 horses and mules.

I regret to announce that Capt. C. H. Reed, commanding Company E, Eighteenth Regiment Illinois Volunteer Infantry, was killed by guerrillas in ambush. He was a gallant and noble officer, and brave to excess. We also lost 1 enlisted man, prisoner.

Not being satisfied with the result of the first expedition, I asked of you and obtained permission to scour the country between the Loosahatchee and the line from Bolivar to Covington and east of Beaver Creek, but with less favorable results, capturing, from roving bands of guerrillas, 1 lieutenant and 8 privates, and 75 horses and mules.

I am informed by reliable citizens of Tipton and Haywood Counties that Richardson, the guerrilla chief, crossed the Mississippi River in a canoe, with a fortune, robbed of citizens of Haywood, Tipton, and the adjoining counties. Learning that a great number of his men, mostly conscripts, disgusted with his mode of warfare, desired to return to their homes, I issued a circular that all citizens and all members of Richardson's, [J. J.] Neely's, and Wood's bands, and other commands styling themselves partisan rangers, who would deliver up their arms, subscribe to the oath of allegiance to the United States of America, and return to

their peaceful pursuits, would be protected in person and property, and also warned them that, in case any of these bands were reorganized or new ones should spring up, I would hold those persons who had not taken the oath of allegiance, or who had not faithfully observed the same, responsible for any act or deeds perpetrated by such bands. To enforce the said circular, I left one company of 3 commissioned officers, 60 men, and 1 provost-marshal at Covington, with the instructions to remain at that post three days, and then to move to Somerville, remain there the same length of time, and then report to Bolivar. I also left a company of the same number, and provost-marshal, at Stanton Depot, to remain there the same length of time, then to proceed to Whiteville, remain there three days, and then report to Bolivar. I then returned with the balance of my command to Jackson, Tenn., April 16, 1863.

I state with pride that the officers and men of both detachments under my command conducted themselves in the most soldierlike manner, and are worthy of a better foe.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

M. K. LAWLER,
Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. E. D. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. Daniel H. Brush, Eighteenth Illinois Infantry.

HDQRS. EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Jackson, Tenn., April 17, 1863.

SIR: I hereby respectfully report that I arrived in camp yesterday evening, with the remaining portion of this regiment out on the expedition to Covington, Tenn., and vicinity, with the exception of detachments under command of Captains Davis and Blackburn, 60 men each, which were left in that region, by direction of Colonel Lawler.

The casualties of the trip are the loss of Capt. C. H. Reed, Company E, killed by guerrillas near Covington on the 5th instant, and Private Bradford Bardmess, Company A, and Corpl. George W. Green, Company F, taken prisoners near Dancyville, Tenn., on the 3d instant.

The command has captured, while absent, about 80 head of horses and mules, not taking into account any surplus that may now be with the aforesaid detachments. Mules were taken from the regimental teams, when the command went out, to mount men who had no horses. Those mules have been returned or replaced.

A considerable number of the horses taken from here by the men were weak and pretty much broken down, and soon gave out; such have been left on the way; some died. Men took in their places captured horses.

It cannot be ascertained with certainty until the absent detachments come back how many animals have been captured, or how many will be on hand after supplying the men who went out on the expedition with a horse each.

Of the captured horses, I was under the necessity of taking one, on account of the horse I was riding becoming unfit for use by having a sore back. Adjt. S. T. Brush, for some reason, took one of the cap-

tured horses. Both of said horses were reported to General Brayman, at Bolivar, when we found we were to go back toward the Mississippi River from that place, were appraised, purchased by us, and paid for, and bills of sale given us.

I respectfully suggest that all the horses and mules now in the regiment belonging to the Government, either in use by the line officers, enlisted men, or teamsters, be at once branded, and those in use by the officers and men be appraised, as also the equipments, and ordered to be charged to the said officers and men, so that they may be respectively held accountable to the Government for the value of the same. Such a course is necessary to prevent the men from trading off and exchanging horses and fixtures, and to make them take care of such as are turned over to them. A board of appraisers, in my opinion, should be at once appointed, that the matter may be speedily attended to.

The prisoners taken during the expedition were turned over to the provost-marshal at Bolivar, by order of Colonel Lawler.

Respectfully submitted.

D. H. BRUSH,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Lieut. J. C. WEBBER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

APRIL 2–6, 1863.—Scout in Beaver Creek Swamp, Tenn.

Report of Lieut. Col. Thomas P. Herrick, Seventh Kansas Cavalry.

GERMANTOWN, TENN., *April* 6, 1863.

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with the order of General Hurlbut, I left camp at daylight on the morning of the 2d instant, with the effective force of the Seventh Kansas Cavalry, to move against Richardson's force, then supposed to be in the swamps of Beaver Creek. On arriving at Hickory Wythe, I learned that the Second Iowa Cavalry had passed through that place an hour before, on their way down from a scout through the country I was ordered to visit. After crossing Loosahatchee, I learned that immediately after the surprise and slaughter of our men near Belmont, on Sunday night, March 29, Richardson had disbanded his men, fearing so large a Federal force would be sent into the country that his command would be destroyed if he attempted to keep it together. I therefore saw that it would be impossible for me to accomplish what was evidently expected from the expedition, for where men are scattered through the swamps it is only by chance that they can be caught. However, I spent two days in the swamps on Beaver, thoroughly scouring the whole country, from the head of East Beaver, 5 miles above Mason's Station, around to Portersville, on the west. Probably one-third of Richardson's active force was scattered through this stretch of country, but our movements were so vigilantly watched and so faithfully reported by the "peaceable citizens," that the entire population anticipated our approach.

Knowing that I would meet no hostile force, I deployed the men by squadrons, and made a hunt instead of a march, sending them in lines of skirmishers through swamps and fields over the whole country. I had some hope that by this means I might find Richardson himself, who has been wounded, and is said to be concealed somewhere in that coun-

try. I then moved down Beaver to its junction with the Loosahatchee, which I recrossed early yesterday morning.

On Cypress I captured a few prisoners, and found that many more of Richardson's men were in that neighborhood than north of the Loosahatchee. I was anxious to spend a couple of days on Cypress, believing I could capture a considerable number of prisoners, but our subsistence was exhausted, and I had no permission to subsist on the country. I therefore returned to camp, where I arrived last night.

I met with no loss except that about 20 of our poorest horses died or had to be abandoned on the march. I captured enough animals belonging to Richardson's men to make up the deficiency.

I made every effort to communicate with Colonel Lawler, but could neither find nor hear of him.

About 2 miles southeast of Portersville, in Beaver Swamp, I found 500 bushels of corn in gunny-sacks, which had been captured by Richardson near Randolph. He had pressed teams in the vicinity of Portersville about a month since, and hauled the corn to this hiding-place for further use. I burned it.

On Thursday night, after we had crossed Loosahatchee, going northward, the bridge below Quinn's Mills was burned, either by citizens or guerrillas. On my return, I found a report circulating among the people that the bridge had been burned by my men. The story will doubtless find its way to headquarters, but it is so palpably absurd that I trust it will not need contradiction. General Hurlbut's orders were strictly observed in every respect.

The conduct of officers and men was praiseworthy, and I am confident that there was no single instance of improper conduct on the part of any man in the expedition. I send herewith triplicate descriptive-rolls of 9 prisoners, who will be turned over to you. A lieutenant named R. F. Graham was killed.

Your obedient servant,

T. P. HERRICK,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Seventh Kansas Cavalry.

Lieut. W. M. EMERY,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

APRIL 2–14, 1863.—Expedition to Greenville, Black Bayou, and Deer Creek, Miss., with skirmishes, April 7, 8, and 10.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Frederick Steele, U. S. Army, commanding expedition.
No. 2.—Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding Second Military District.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army.
No. 4.—Col. Samuel W. Ferguson, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Frederick Steele, U. S. Army, commanding expedition.

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Greenville, April 10, 1863.

GENERAL: My command has just returned to this place, having pursued the rebels, under Colonel Ferguson, about 43 miles down Deer

Creek. Their precise strength I could not ascertain, but they had six pieces of artillery, and from 600 to 1,000 cavalry and infantry. At Dr. Thomas' plantation they received re-enforcements from Rolling Fork, including two 10-pounder Parrotts. Here they drew up in line of battle and opened on us with their artillery. It was an open field between us, and I advanced upon them in line, using all my artillery. They fled before the infantry became engaged. My troops had made a fatiguing march, and we encamped on the place the enemy had just left.

The next morning, I sent out a force to ascertain where the enemy were. They had moved toward Rolling Fork, where it was said they were to receive large re-enforcements. For reasons which I will explain in my official report to General Sherman, I then started back to this place, bringing about 1,000 head of stock, horses, mules, and beef-cattle. There are also a number of ox-wagons, carts, buggies, &c. A great many negroes have followed the command. I wish you would send up six boats to carry the stock, &c. I advised all the negroes that asked my advice to stay on the plantations where they belonged, except two engineers and a blacksmith. Please send me instructions as to what shall be done with these poor creatures. In many instances our men burned up everything there was to eat on the plantations, in spite of all my endeavors to prevent it. It is estimated by some of the officers that we burned 500,000 bushels of corn. There were 25,000 bushels burned at Thompson's, which the negroes said were destined for Vicksburg. We have lost a considerable number of stragglers, some of whom were taken because they wished to be, no doubt. One man of my escort was killed, and one other cavalryman wounded. The enemy made his appearance on our rear to-day while we were bridging Black Bayou, at French's plantation, but were soon dispersed, with the loss of 1 man on our part. We have 1 lieutenant and 2 privates prisoners. I send this dispatch by Major [B. H.] Peterson. Please send me orders in regard to my future movements.

I am told that there are 150 bales of cotton 7 or 8 miles from here, belonging to a Mr. Miller, rebel. I could probably get it into the river if it would be proper to mark it S. A. Douglas.

The enemy have five or six boats on Bogue Phaliah and a landing about 2 miles from Deer Creek, high up; a good road leading across and several bridges.

Very truly, yours,

FRED'K STEELE,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

No. 2.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army, commanding Second Military District.

VICKSBURG, *April* 8, 1863.
(Received April 8.)

The enemy are in force against Ferguson. The force now under Lee is six regiments and battalion light artillery, and very little cavalry. He needs very much the latter. Please order back two companies of Waul's Legion.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

VICKSBURG, *April* 8, 1863.

Lee will secure Rolling Fork, and move up Bogue Phaliah to get in rear of the enemy, who are forcing Ferguson down Deer Creek.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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VICKSBURG, *April* 9, 1863.

The enemy, some eight regiments in sight, had driven Ferguson on night of 7th nearly to Rolling Fork; re-enforcements were arriving. I think this is a formidable expedition, probably to co-operate with one from Steele's Bayou. I think half of the brigade with Maury should go at once to Rolling Fork, the other to Snyder's, to operate up Lower Deer Creek. If the cotton-boats are not needed above, they had better be here.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

VICKSBURG, *April* 9, 1863.

Report from Ferguson, dated 11 a. m. yesterday. He had made a stand 16 miles above Rolling Fork; expected to be re-enforced that night. Two regiments must have been near him; nothing of the artillery heard yesterday afternoon. Please order back the intrenching tools taken by General Featherston, and any others that can be spared. A sufficient number cannot be obtained here. Send back Captain [D.] Wintter.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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HDQRS. SECOND DISTRICT, DEPT. OF MISS. AND E. LA.,
Vicksburg, April 14, 1863.

MAJOR: I send you herewith reports from General Lee and Colonel Ferguson.*

I shall direct General Lee to place works on Sunflower at such points as he may think proper, and will cause all exposed points to be secured by defensive works.

General Lee suggests that a cotton-clad be placed on Sunflower as a guard-boat until we can get out supplies. General Maury thinks the cotton-clads are too unsafe for troops. I will provide for that defense in some other way.

The raft has been strengthened by additional chains. I am preparing railroad iron, connected by links, for additional security.

It would be dangerous to attempt to put the Yazoo raft below Haynes'. The current is too strong. If it should become unmanageable and strike the drift, it would be very apt to carry away the main raft. At the bend at Haynes' it can be turned into an eddy, prepared and swung, if the other should give way, but even there it should not be placed in

*See pp. 504, 507.

the current until there is an absolute necessity for it, for the chances are it would break. This is the opinion of all who have examined into it.

Grant and Sherman came down on the flag-boat yesterday. Their object was evidently to induce the belief that their troops were here.

I saw a letter from Grant to Major Watts, in which he referred to Adjutant-General Thomas being on the Mississippi.

I am, major, respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
A. A. G., Dept. of Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana, Jackson.

ADDENDA.

JACKSON, *April* 9, 1863.

Capt. I. N. BROWN, *Yazoo City:*

Move down river—say, to mouth of Sunflower—with your cotton-clad boats, to operate as circumstances may require.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

JACKSON, *April* 9, 1863.

Major-General LORING,
Fort Pemberton, via Grenada and Yazoo City (both ways):

Send [J. C.] Moore's brigade immediately, 1,500 of which to Rolling Fork, and the remainder to Haynes' Bluff or Snyder's Mill, to receive instructions from Major-General Stevenson.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

No. 3.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, C. S. Army.

WILLIS' PLACE, UPPER DEER CREEK,
Eighteen miles above Rolling Fork, April 9, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report my arrival at this point last night. Colonel Ferguson halted here to give the Yankees battle, but yesterday evening he discovered that they were falling back rapidly, destroying everything eatable before them, and they are now, or were last night, at midnight, 20 miles above this point, at Taylor's place (40 miles above Rolling Fork). They did not leave a particle of anything for the planters to subsist on, but said they intended to destroy everything this side of Greenville. I have ordered Colonel Ferguson to follow them with his force, and I will be ready to assist him. It now becomes a serious matter how troops are to be subsisted above this point, and the colonel, after discovering further of the movements of the enemy, will be directed to return at least to this point, leaving an observing squad near Greenville.

I will now turn my attention to the Hushpuckanaw, from which I have not heard, and have ordered Captain [B. M.] Harrod, with Weldon, to

go on a reconnaissance to select a suitable point for works, and a raft, as near the mouth of the Bogue Phaliah as the water will admit, if possible at the mouth; if not, to go up till a point is found, and I will be prepared to move with three regiments and a section of artillery at a moment's notice, as soon as their report is received, or I hear from the expedition now there. There are ample stores between this and the Rolling Fork for this command at present.

Colonel Ferguson day before yesterday gave the enemy such a check with his small force that they were deterred from a farther advance. They deployed seven regiments of infantry, artillery, and cavalry. Their command, from all I can learn, consists of Steele's division and the Marine Brigade, not to exceed 6,000 men. Their object was, I think, to destroy provisions. The negroes are in a pretty bad condition, and a larger force of cavalry, say a regiment, is needed here, as only cavalry can get through the swamps. But it should be borne in mind that corn will now be scarce, and the general had better delay till I hear through Colonel Ferguson the extent of their destruction. I will let you hear further this evening.

Yours, respectfully,

STEPHEN D. LEE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HDQRS. ROLLING FORK, *April* 12, 1863—9.30 a. m.

MAJOR: I have delayed my dispatch to this hour to hear from Colonel Ferguson, near Greenville, but have received nothing from him; but as the Yankees were 5 miles from Greenville at last accounts, I do not expect anything important from him. The planters and negroes are much demoralized on the Mississippi, and from all I can learn large cotton crops are being planted by men who were regarded above suspicion. On some of the places the negroes are almost in a state of insurrection.

Adjutant-General Thomas, U. S. Army, on the 9th visited Lake Providence, and made a speech to the troops, stating that all the negroes were to be returned and the men conscripted. Each division should have three negro regiments, to be officered by white officers; that all the rest of the negroes, men and women, were to be put to work under overseers, to raise cotton and corn for the Government, to make the war self-sustaining. The United States authorities at Memphis are seizing all the cotton for the Government. Thomas said that Vicksburg would fall within thirty days without the firing of a gun. The report of the speech comes from a reliable source, who was present and heard the speech.

The Hope returned from a point 60 miles above the Bogue yesterday evening, that being the lowest point where obstructions can be made with sufficient ground for fortifying. I respectfully urge that works be commenced at the point indicated, to allay any uneasiness in the future, and that at least four long-range guns be placed in battery there, protected by a suitable force. I send a report of Captain Harrod, with a sketch.* The Hope heard nothing of the Arcadia or Dew Drop up the Sunflower. I send the Emma Bett, with Colonel [W. E.] Curtiss, 150 men, and two howitzers, up the Sunflower to look after the missing

* Not found.

boats. I do this, as I feel some uneasiness about them, though I think they are safe, and merely loading both boats with corn and other supplies above the Hushpuckanaw. I do not think the route practicable at present, as the water is falling, and the delay incident to transferring the load from the Dew Drop to the Arcadia will account for the non-return of the boats. The people up the Sunflower seem to anticipate no advance in that direction.

I directed Mr. Weldon to prepare for constructing the raft on the Sunflower, and a man is now getting out the lumber. I propose putting a raft in Rolling Fork also, and Weldon is to send a man to do it. These rafts are to be ready to swing across the river in case of alarm. The work (intrenchment) at this point is progressing well. It is being constructed of cotton bales, with a thickness of 10 to 15 feet of earth in front, with a banquette raised 18 inches above the general surface.

I have sent an officer to Black Bayou to look at the obstructions completed there. I do not anticipate any advance from that direction, nor do I anticipate any trouble here until the water falls, when the enemy will advance from Skipwith's and other points. I will not send any of my force back till I hear more reliably from the Hushpuckanaw, about which I am tolerably easy. I am holding the Golden Age here, loading with supplies, and will have her to move up the Sunflower, if necessary. Occupying a point above the Bogue Phaliah would necessitate at least a regiment in small boats between the mouth of the Bogue and Falls' Landing to hold that stream, and I recommend the construction of the boats at once. I make these recommendations now in anticipation of high water in June, when the enemy may attempt the water courses in this direction.

A rumor comes pretty straight from the Mississippi that a captain of one of the gunboats, quite intimate with a Mr. Duncan (a planter), stated that one hundred transports would be down in a few days. It was not stated whether they would be empty or not. It is very difficult to get reliable information from the river, owing to the demoralization and fear for property.

Respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN D. LEE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
A. A. G., 2d Dist., Dept. of Miss. and E. La., Vicksburg, Miss.

HEADQUARTERS ROLLING FORK,
April 14, 1863—4 p. m.

MAJOR: Since my last communication to you, I have received additional information of the movements of transports down the Mississippi, and also intelligence of the removal of the troops from Lake Providence. As these movements tend to indicate an attack by the enemy upon Vicksburg or vicinity, I have ordered three of the regiments stationed here to embark for Haynes' Bluff, and will myself leave for the same point this evening. I have directed Colonel Ferguson to leave a cavalry force in the vicinity of Greenville, and to bring his infantry force to this point. I will leave here the Fifty-sixth Georgia Regiment and a section of howitzers, as an addition to the force which he now has with him. I have advised him to make his headquarters in this vicinity for convenience of communication. The line of fortifications which

I am erecting will, when completed, be very strong, and can easily be held by the force under the command of Colonel Ferguson.

Black Bayou is pretty well obstructed, and so is Deer Creek between Black Bayou and this point. These obstructions, in conjunction with the fortifications, will detain any force of the enemy sufficiently long to allow re-enforcements to be sent in large numbers.

Mr. Hampton has just arrived here, and has given me the following information: He says the enemy is digging a canal from Milliken's Bend into Walnut Bayou, thence into Vidal (he thinks) Bayou, and from there into Roundaway Bayou, near New Carthage. He thinks their object is to carry supplies on flat-boats through this canal, for the purpose of making an expedition up the Big Black, and for supplying boats from below.

Yours, respectfully,

STEPHEN D. LEE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
A. A. G., 2d Dist., Dept. of Miss. and E. La., Vicksburg, Miss.

No. 4.

Reports of Col. Samuel W. Ferguson, C. S. Army.

FALLS' PLACE, *April* 7, 1863.

MAJOR: I have fallen back to this point, and will continue my march down the creek to-day until I find a position that can be held by my force against the advance of the enemy. The latter crossed Black Bayou yesterday, near General French's place, to the number of about 300, and had large camp and a train of wagons on the other side, ready to cross as soon as they could get a bridge fixed. General Steele seems to be in command. One of my spies, disguised as a negro, had a long talk with him. He said he intended to pick me up at Rolling Fork and put me on his boats. This may be only a boast, or may indicate that they wish to get possession of the country from Rolling Fork to Black Bayou, and then clear Deer Creek of obstructions. Please let me know at once what to do; whether to hold the country to the last extremity, awaiting re-enforcements, or shall I endeavor to get my force safely out of the way and give the country up? I got positive information yesterday that twenty-five boats, loaded with troops, had passed Skipwith's Landing on the day before, going up. On yesterday sixteen boats, with troops, were being disembarked at Greenville.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

DEER CREEK, 26 MILES ABOVE ROLLING FORK,
April 7, 1863—7 p. m.

MAJOR: I have fallen back to this point before the superior forces of the enemy. Their cavalry was last night about 14 miles from here. I have so little cavalry that I cannot obtain full knowledge of their move-

ments. They were busy repairing bridge across Deer Creek, near Colonel Falls'. This may be for the purpose of reaching Bogue Phaliah, and embarking parties on small boats for the purpose of surprising some of our steamers, which might be caught without troops on board. I got 4 deserters yesterday; they represent the force at 7,000 under General Sherman; General Steele was their brigade commander; this estimate exclusive of the Marine Brigade. I have sent three dispatches before this; hope they went through rapidly. My situation very embarrassing until I can learn whether re-enforcements are to be sent or I am to make good my retreat as best I may. If the country is to be held, more cavalry is indispensable. Please send me instructions at once.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

DEER CREEK, 20 MILES ABOVE ROLLING FORK,
April 7, 1863—7.30 p. m.

MAJOR: The enemy came upon me to-day at the point I had halted yesterday, at about 2 p. m. I repulsed their cavalry, and remained in position after their artillery opened, for some time, until seven regiments (apparently) of infantry advanced in line of battle. I then fell back slowly, repulsed their cavalry again with rear guard, and I am now making my way to Rolling Fork, as I can hear nothing as yet of re-enforcements or of boats to take me off. If they are not there when I arrive, I fear the greater portion of the command must be sacrificed. I shall endeavor to get some of it down Deer Creek to Victor Wilson's place, if not cut off at Black Bayou. Please, if re-enforcements have not started in time, have some transportation ready at Lower Deer Creek as well as at Rolling Fork.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

DEER CREEK, CAPTAIN WILLIS' PLANTATION,
April 8, 1863—11 a. m.

MAJOR: Learning that re-enforcements had arrived at the mouth of Rolling Fork, I have determined to hold this position, which is a strong one, until further orders. I have not yet received any report from the commanding officer of said re-enforcements, but conclude that a sufficient force will be sent to hold this approach to Vicksburg. Your dispatches of the 5th and 6th instant were received last night after mine to you had been sent. My rear guard is in the position it occupied last night, about 3 miles higher up, and at last accounts the enemy had not advanced through the canebreak I held until sunset yesterday. With the force now here, I can hold the point until to-morrow at any rate.

In case of a severe engagement, my artillery ammunition will soon be exhausted, in consequence of the order to me some time since to send back a portion of it. My guns are three 12-pounder howitzers and

three 3-inch rifles. What I need most are shells and spherical case; you can decide on the necessity of their being furnished in time. My requisitions for harness, &c., have not been filled, and, in consequence, I can only use four horses or mules to some of the caissons. This may eventually prove a serious matter. My terrible deficiency in cavalry has prevented my driving before me the stock of the country, and collecting the wagons and teams, so a supply of food and transportation has been left to the enemy, in spite of the efforts I have made to prevent it.

As soon as I heard on Sunday last that the troops were landing at Greenville, I sent a party to Millar's Bend, on the Mississippi, to cut the levee at the head of Black Bayou. The chances of success were more than doubtful, but if it is accomplished, in about ten days the swamp they have crossed on a dry land road will all be overflowed, and their line of communication very seriously obstructed. When they reach Rolling Fork, they will have marched about 65 miles. We will, therefore, have the great advantage of operations on an interior or shorter line by water communication. Their line of communication may be cut by small parties going up Bogue Phaliah in skiffs and yawls, such as I captured in getting through the overflow to the vicinity of Deer Creek, at such points as Falls' Landing, Taylor's, Ruck's, and the place occupied by Dr. and Mr. William Blanton. The parties could also give notice of any similar expedition of the enemy to capture by surprise our steamers. The men for such an expedition should be selected with regard to their skill with the oar.

I yesterday sent Captain [W. A. C.] Jones, of the Fortieth Alabama, to Rolling Fork, to examine the practicability of putting a levee across Deer Creek at the head of Rolling Fork, in order to turn all the water into the latter, which would cause such a fall in the former as to prevent boats going up from Black Bayou. The water is so much higher now than it was when the last expedition came, that trees then thrown in, and which rested on each bank and formed a good blockade, are now afloat and can be easily removed. I inclose his report.* If the plan is deemed worthy of adoption, I would suggest that engineers, tools, &c., be at once ordered to execute it.

I have burned all the bale cotton as I fell back before the enemy, and destroyed the bridges, to keep them as much as possible to our side of the creek. They have burned several fine steam gins that I know of, and probably all. I yesterday hanged a negro man, slave of William F. Smith, who, mistaking two of my men for the Abolitionists, hailed them across the creek, and volunteered to conduct them to the rebel camp, so as to surprise it; informed them of my strength and position, asked for a gun to kill his master, and said that he would knock down and rape any white woman.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

COURTNEY'S PLANTATION, DEER CREEK, *April* 12, 1863.

GENERAL: Your letter of yesterday received this a. m. I have been waiting to give you the latest news from the river. Some of the enemy's transports lay at Greenville all yesterday. Their artillery and cavalry

* Not found.

seemed all to have embarked. From citizens who went on board to recover stolen property, I learn that General Steele said he was waiting orders from General Grant. I would have made an attack with artillery at daylight this morning, but the storm last night prevented the transportation of the guns, and I am afraid of the bridge in my rear being washed away, the bayou is rising so rapidly from the cut in the levee. In regard to cutting the levees in this section, the only place at which anything could be accomplished would be at the head of Williams' Bayou, but the river is falling so rapidly I do not think this will amount to much, and will cut me off from the river altogether, leaving a section of country in the condition of that about Lakes Washington and America. Upper Deer Creek is already overflowed from the cut at the head of the creek. A Mr. Carter, a planter at point of Millar's Bend, reported yesterday that since Saturday last, when Steele's expedition landed at Greenville, twenty-two boats loaded with troops had passed his place going up the river. Citizens near Greenville do not confirm this, but the boats may have passed during the night.

I find it impossible to ascertain positively whether the boats of Steele's expedition, after taking the troops on board, went up or down, but incline to the opinion they (6 of them) went up night before last. Yesterday about sunset five formidable gunboats passed down within a half hour of each other.

Since commencing the last sentence, a dispatch from Lieutenant Maughas, who is keeping watch on the river bank, has come in. I inclose it.* He is reliable.

I think it advisable to keep my force here for the present, as that infernal expedition under Ellet, who burns and destroys everything on the river, has lately been on the river near here. He might land to destroy what is left. He cannot get between us, except with a little cavalry, and even that will be impossible in a few days, from the rise in Black Bayou.

As soon as I have time I wish to send a full report of the burning and destruction of private property by General Steele, and in this connection would call attention to the 5 prisoners sent down, who acknowledge that they had been led to the east bank of Deer Creek by their captain, to steal mules and horses and burn everything. They were caught on stolen animals, and had in their possession articles of private property stolen from residences, and were recognized as those who had set fire to the corn on Dr. Hill's plantation. Will not our Government make an example of them? I found in the Yankee camp at this place four pairs of hand-cuffs and a long chain, all linked together, which would well ornament them. I need all the cavalry I can get.

My only loss so far is Lieutenant Dorsey, of the sharpshooters, captured, and 2 men, of the Fortieth Alabama, deserted to the enemy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding Upper Deer Creek.

Brig. Gen. STEPHEN D. LEE, *Commanding, &c.*

COURTNEY'S PLACE, DEER CREEK,
April 13, 1863—10 a. m.

GENERAL: I can make nothing of the enemy's movements, unless I construe them to indicate the purpose of establishing a post at Green-

* Not found.

ville. Yesterday they advanced with large infantry force, drove in my cavalry until they reached the spot where the latter had bivouacked, then fell back to their boats. I thought the movement meant to cover their embarkation, but this morning Captain [G.] Barnes sends me word that their movements indicate an advance. That was about two hours ago. I have just learned that they yesterday examined Blantona, the residence of Mrs. Theobald, with the view of converting it into a hospital. They also commenced pitching tents in a clover field near her house, and inquired the number of healthy negro women, with the view of making of them nurses for small-pox patients. They have long talked to the citizens along the river of their purpose of establishing a post at Greenville. They may have told the truth for once.

Two boats landed troops yesterday and one went off. Not known whether or not she took troops with her.

The water is rising in Black Bayou at the rate of about 6 inches in twenty-four hours. If this continues, it will soon render the swamp impassable. I have sent this morning to make another cut, to throw the water from Deer Creek into it, which will also overflow the road from here to Choctaw Bend.

I am quite sick and barely able to move about; wish you could spare time to ride up here and look for yourself.

Very truly, &c., your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. STEPHEN D. LEE,
Commanding, &c.

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COURTNEY'S PLACE, DEER CREEK,
April 14, 1863—2.30 p. m.

GENERAL: I have delayed sending an express to you to-day, until I could ascertain something positive in regard to the enemy. I have just learned that there are at present thirteen transports at Greenville Landing. Constant skirmishing goes on between their pickets and ours. Two transports, one very large and one small, passed down yesterday, loaded with troops, without stopping at Greenville. Seven transports loaded with troops, wagons, tents, &c., passed down to-day, without stopping. One gunboat and one transport, loaded with horses, passed up to-day.

I sent yesterday to Chickasaw Bend to have the levee cut. The party sent reported to me this morning no water against the levee, and that twenty boats, apparently, from the noise, loaded with troops, passed that point during the previous night. I can get no positive information of their having passed Greenville, although, as it was at night, and I had no pickets just on the bank, they could have passed without its being known. The Yankee bridge across Black Bayou is washed away, and my pickets now have to swim the stream to get near the Yankees. The account of the boats passing down, which I send you, includes only those of which I have positive knowledge; others may have passed without my knowing it.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. STEPHEN D. LEE,
Commanding, &c.

APRIL 4, 1863.—Skirmish on Nonconnah Creek, near Memphis, Tenn.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding district.

No. 1.

Report of Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.

MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 4, 1863.

SIR: Brig. Gen. L. Thomas, Adjutant-General, is here on a tour of inspection. I am gratified that so far as he has seen or expressed an opinion it is favorable.

There has been a small picket affair on the line of the Nonconnah to-day, not yet over. Our cavalry pickets (Second Wisconsin) were struck about daylight, 2 men wounded and 2 captured. Colonel Stephens (Second Wisconsin), with about 100 men, pursued, crossed the Nonconnah, and drove their pickets 6 miles, when, finding the enemy in force, about from 600 to 800 cavalry and dismounted men, and hearing of a battery, he fell back. I immediately ordered Lauman's First Brigade (four regiments and a battery) forward, and pushed two battalions of the Fifth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry over the Nonconnah. I have not yet heard from them, nor do I think the enemy will wait for an attack. I think it was a ruse to draw a portion of our cavalry out and surround them. If they come in before the boat leaves, I will report further, but I think this is all. I scarcely believe that Chalmers would venture infantry and artillery so near us, and think it is only a dash of mounted men.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding District.

SENATOBIA, *April* 5, 1863.

I hope the orders will not take Major [W. M.] Inge from me. He is now east of my line, but about ready to bring his command here.

We drove the enemy's pickets within 5 miles of Memphis. Killed 1, wounded several; captured 2, with horses and equipments complete. They came out afterward, but, finding us ready, did not advance.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

[Indorsement.]

Tell General Ruggles that on arrival of cavalry regiment from General Buckner, Major Inge will join General Chalmers. Tell Chalmers same.

J. C. P. [PEMBERTON.]

APRIL 5–6, 1863.—Scout from Grand Junction to Saulsbury, Tenn.

Report of Capt. Asa W. McDonald, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *April* 11, 1863.

Agreeably to directions, 50 men from Companies F, M, and H, under my command, proceeded on a scout to the vicinity of Saulsbury, a sergeant and 10 men of the Sixth Illinois accompanying as guides. We started soon after 3 o'clock, and proceeded direct to Saulsbury, where we got tidings that a party the evening previous had passed up the State Line road shortly before sunset. We proceeded to the place indicated, and had gone but a short distance when I learned that a party of guerrillas had passed direct down the Ripley road. I made some inquiries after returning onto the Ripley road, and found the information I had received was correct, as 34 guerrillas had passed about 6 a. m. We followed the trail, and when about 2 miles south from Saulsbury a large mound was discovered, about 2 miles ahead, and when I had arrived at a short distance from the mound, it being some half a mile to our right, I discovered something which I took to be a picket, and moved forward at a brisk pace. I ordered Lieutenant Breeze to take Company F, and advance up the front of the mound and engage them should there be a force there, while I moved around, endeavoring to get in their rear; but they did not stand to receive Lieutenant Breeze, but retreated immediately, Company F giving them a few shots, and then charged after them. They deserted their lead mules, having 2, but Company F pushed them so close that 2 of the 3 prisoners (citizens) they had escaped, and the other they shot dead. I came on the trail at this point, and pursued them about 2 miles farther, but did not succeed in capturing any, as they dispersed in squads of twos and threes at short intervals.

ASA W. MCDONALD,
Captain Seventh Illinois Cavalry Regiment, Comdg. Detachment.

[Lieut. GEORGE A. ROOT,
Adjutant Seventh Illinois Cavalry.]

APRIL 5–7, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Early Grove and Mount Pleasant, Miss.

Report of Capt. William W. Eaton, Second Iowa Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *April* 7, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in accordance with orders received at 4.30 p. m. on the 5th instant, from headquarters First Brigade, Cavalry Division, "for one battalion to proceed immediately southward to Early Grove, thence westerly toward Mount Pleasant, and return by way of Moscow," I started with the Third Battalion at 5.30 p. m., and moved southward on the main Holly Springs road to the point where the Early Grove road leaves it, and thence on the Early Grove road. I encamped for the night on the plantation of ———, about 9 miles southwest of La Grange, and 6 miles northeast from Early Grove. No information could be gained from any citizen in the neighborhood as to the position or movements of the enemy.

At 4 a. m. on the 6th, started, and reached Early Grove about day-

light; thence moved southward toward the Lamar and Mount Pleasant road, and on arriving near the plantation and residence of Mr. James Pool, 2 miles from Early Grove, my advance saw some men about Pool's house. Three men were sent to see who they were, when the men started to run, but were, after some firing on both sides, captured. Two men were found in the house of Pool. The women of the house refused to let the sergeant in command of the advance enter the house, denying that any one was in there. The sergeant, though, had seen them through the window, and insisted on searching the house, when the women placed themselves before the door and resisted all entrance, until the sergeant threatened to burn the house unless they allowed the search, when they stepped aside and allowed him to go in, where he found 2 of Mitchell's men, armed—one of them with a Colt's carbine. The party proved to be 2 of Waul's Legion—one sergeant and one private—and 3 of Mitchell's men, all armed and equipped as cavalry.

Fed, got breakfast, and at 9 a. m. started for Mount Pleasant, where we arrived at 12 m. At 12.30 p. m. started for Moscow; arrived at 3 p. m., seeing or learning nothing more of the enemy. Rested one hour at Moscow, and returned to camp, arriving about retreat last night. The captures were as follows, viz: Five horses, which were turned over to the regimental quartermaster; two Colt's revolvers, navy size; one Colt's carbine, and two shot-guns. The guns were destroyed by the men, and the balance turned over to the regimental adjutant.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM W. EATON,
Captain Company L, Second Iowa Cav., Comdg. Third Battalion.

Lieut. S. L. WOODWARD,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

APRIL 9, 1863.—Skirmish near the Obion River, Tenn.

Report of Brig. Gen. Alexander Asboth, U. S. Army.

COLUMBUS, KY., *April* 15, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that, pursuant to orders communicated in my report under No. 1178 to search the house and neighborhood of one Henderson Wright, south of the Obion River, in order to capture the rebel Captain Scales, with his band, Captain Hutchens, commanding Company E, Fifteenth Illinois Cavalry, started on the morning of the 9th instant, and, crossing the Obion, after a ride of 43 miles, reached the plantation of Wright, occupied by the rebel Captain Scales as his headquarters in his organization of a battalion. A body of cavalry received our men with a volley of musketry, but Captain Hutchens ordered a charge, resulting in the death of 4 of the rebels, and capture of 26 men with 13 horses, and the complete dispersion of the band. Among the prisoners, a list of whom is herewith inclosed,* are Captain Scales, the commander of a rebel battalion, and Lieutenant Voorhees, with their appointments as officers of the rebel army in their pockets; also Henderson Wright, a most dangerous rebel.

From positive information, I would state that there are yet several bodies of conscripts, under Captains Parks, Carter, and others, ap-

* Not found.

pointed by Pillow and Forrest, south of the Obion, and I only await the return of my informant with guides to make a combined cavalry movement on them, as the Fourth Missouri Cavalry has arrived and will be in a few days ready for duty. Reviewing the presence of rebel parties on the Obion, at Paris and Mussey, Tenn., and another at Dresden, Tenn., in connection with the avowed and published intention of Pillow to conscript in the counties of my district, I must regard as most opportune the decision of the General-in-Chief in permitting the Fourth Missouri Cavalry to remain in this district.

Adjutant-General Thomas, on his late visit to this post, also admitted the necessity of more cavalry here. I therefore respectfully solicit the exercise of your influence to prevent the projected removal of the Fourth Missouri Cavalry to the Department of the Cumberland; and as it is urgently required to send more cavalry to Fort Heiman, and form a connecting chain of cavalry posts between the Mississippi and Tennessee, also to control properly the railroad and telegraph, I would request that an additional regiment of cavalry be ordered for duty to my district.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[ASBOTH.]

Maj. Gen. STEPHEN A. HURLBUT.

APRIL 10–11, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., to Hudsonville, Lockhart's Mills, Mount Pleasant, and Early Grove, Miss.

Reports of Capt. John M. Graham, Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

QUARTERS COMPANY E, SEVENTH ILLINOIS VOL. CAV.,
La Grange, Tenn., April 11, 1863.

SIR: In pursuance of orders from the colonel commanding the brigade, I marched from this place at 2 p. m. on the 10th instant, with 195 men, consisting of three companies of the First and the whole of the Second Battalion; pursued the Holly Springs road until we arrived at Hudsonville; thence west on the road to Lockhart's Mills, and encamped for the night 1½ miles west of Hudsonville. Resumed the march at 7 a. m. of this day; crossed Coldwater at Lockhart's Mills; thence to Mount Pleasant, and returned to camp by the way of Early Grove, and arrived here at 5 p. m.

I have to report one prisoner taken near Mount Pleasant, a private of Company E, Second Arkansas Cavalry, James Hoy by name; he had been a prisoner in our hands a short time ago, and had taken the oath of allegiance and was released; and one Nathan Baldwin, a private in Mitchell's company, Chalmers' regiment, was taken 3 miles west of Early Grove. I could not hear of any force this side of the Tallahatchee.

Chalmers' regiment is reported at Hernando, 600 strong. We also captured 3 cavalry horses and equipments and 1 mule. We had no casualties.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. GRAHAM,
Captain, Commanding Expedition.

Lieut. GEORGE A. ROOT,
Adjutant Seventh Illinois Cavalry.

QUARTERS COMPANY E, SEVENTH ILLINOIS VOL. CAV.,
Camp at La Grange, Tenn., April 12, 1863.

SIR: In pursuance of Special Orders, No. 84, from Major Nelson, commanding this regiment, I marched from this place at 2 p. m. on the 10th instant, with 195 men and 6 commissioned officers, consisting of three companies of the First and the Second Battalion of this regiment. Followed the Holly Springs road to Hudsonville; thence due west 1½ miles, and encamped for the night on the road leading to Lockhart's Mills. Forty men of Companies G and D were placed on picket. Lieutenant Gaston, of Company G, officer of the picket, placed pickets on all the roads leading from camp, four in number, and kept patrols constantly going from one post to another during the night; the men slept on their arms and the horses were not unsaddled. The regiment marched this day right in front.

Resumed the line of march at 7 o'clock the next morning, taking the road to Lockhart's Mills. The regiment, marching left in front, crossed Coldwater at Lockhart's Mills; the stream at this place makes quite an elbow, causing us to make a second crossing. At the first crossing there is a very passable bridge; bridge destroyed at the second crossing; road barely practicable at this place for wagons lightly loaded. Still following the Mount Pleasant road, there is a plain wagon road taking to the right 4 miles from Mount Pleasant, leading in the direction of Early Grove. One mile south of Mount Pleasant we crossed a small creek (Little Coldwater) on a poor bridge; the stream runs southwest from Mount Pleasant. We took the Moscow road 4 miles from Mount Pleasant; road forks here. We took the right hand, leading to Early Grove; crossed a large creek (Clear Creek; this creek runs northwest) on a good bridge. One mile before arriving at Early Grove there is a very plain road leading from Moscow and intersecting the road we were on just before we crossed the creek. We fed our horses, however, before arriving at the creek, 3 miles from Early Grove. From Early Grove we took a direct road to this place, where we arrived at 5 p. m. From here to Hudsonville, 18 miles; from there to Lockhart's Mills, 6; from there to Mount Pleasant, 8; to Early Grove, 11, and to this place, 12 miles; in all, 55 miles.

I have also to report 2 prisoners, 3 horses and equipments, and 1 mule captured; one James Hoy, a private of Company E, Second Arkansas Cavalry (this man was captured before by my company in January last, and released on the 24th day of that month, upon his taking the oath of allegiance, and his horse and equipments returned to him), and one Nathan Baldwin, a private of Mitchell's company, Chalmers' regiment of cavalry. He states that the number of the regiment or the letter of his company has not yet been designated.

I cannot hear of any force this side of the Tallahatchee River. Chalmers' regiment, 500 or 600 strong, is reported at Hernando and at Panola, or in that neighborhood.

I am, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. M. GRAHAM,
Captain, Commanding Expedition.

Lieut. GEORGE A. ROOT,
Adjutant Seventh Illinois Volunteer Cavalry.

APRIL 16, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg batteries by gunboats and transports.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Adjt. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. Army.
No. 3.—Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army.
No. 4.—Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Adjt. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, U. S. Army.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *April* 17, 1863.

I ran down to Young's Point and took a position in full view of Vicksburg, about 4 miles distant in a straight line, to witness the passage of Admiral Porter's fleet of seven vessels, with three transports loaded with rations. The naval vessels are Benton, La Fayette, Price, Pittsburg, Carondelet, Mound City, and Tuscumbia;* transports, chartered steamers Silver Wave, Forest Queen, and Henry Clay, protected with cotton and hay bales.

The head of this line nearly reached the upper batteries before being discovered. Fire was opened on them at 11 o'clock, and continued until 2, when the fleet opened heavily on Warrenton. The entire naval fleet passed with but little damage and small loss. One shot penetrated the Benton, on which vessel 1 man was killed and 3 slightly wounded. The Forest Queen early received a shot in the hull and one in the steam-drum. The Henry Clay, to avoid collision with her, changed direction, and received shot in the stern. The captain very soon took his men in his boats, leaving the pilot, who would not desert his post. She caught fire, and being then helpless, the pilot took a plank and drifted by the burning mass nearly four hours, when he was picked up. The boat had on board 50,000 rations.

General Sherman, who had taken a position below the city in a small skiff, boarded the Benton and saw the admiral. A full half hour passed before the second battery made its appearance, and to the general's hail the answer was, "All well." The Tuscumbia was sent back, and towed the disabled Forest Queen. The rebels burned several houses in Vicksburg and one near the point opposite, which lighted up the whole river. The firing from the rebels was not near so heavy as I anticipated, and but few shots were given from Warrenton. The effect of our shot is unknown.

No communication received as yet from the admiral. It is a great success, and Captain Ross, who takes this, will remain at Cairo twenty-four hours to receive any reply.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant-General.

Hon. E. M. STANTON.

*Also the Louisville. For reports of Actg. Rear-Admiral Porter, Capt. H. Walke, Lieut. Commanders James A. Greer, E. K. Owen, James W. Shirk, and Byron Wilson, and Actg. Lieuts. W. R. Hoel, J. McLeod Murphy, and S. E. Woodworth, see Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. Army.

JACKSON, *April* 17, 1863.
(Received April 18.)

Upon fuller information, it is ascertained that at 11.30 p. m. last night eight of enemy's most formidable gunboats, and three transports, loaded with commissary stores and towing barges with quartermaster's property, started past batteries at Vicksburg. The gunboats, Admiral Porter commanding, passed down; damage unknown. Two transports destroyed; the third now at Brown & Johnston's, apparently a wreck. Believed two of enemy's boats badly injured.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond.

No 3.

Report of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army.

VICKSBURG, *April* 17, 1863.

Have just taken some prisoners, who left a boat which sank opposite upper batteries. The result of action last night is one boat sunk (probably two), one burned, and three badly damaged. There were six gunboats—General Price, Benton, Cincinnati, Aleck Scott, Tuscumbia, and La Fayette: three transports—Henry Clay, Forest Queen, and Silver Wave. The Forest Queen is now at Brown & Johnston's; all others passed down in the night. The smoke in sight this morning below Diamond Bend.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

No. 4.

Report of Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith, C. S. Army.

VICKSBURG, *April* 17, 1863.

At 11.30 p. m. last night, eight of enemy's most formidable gunboats, and three transports, loaded with commissary stores and towing barges with quartermaster's property, started past batteries. The gunboats, Admiral Porter in command, passed down; damage unknown. Two transports were destroyed; the third now at Brown & Johnston's, apparently a wreck. Believed two gunboats badly injured.

M. L. SMITH,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

APRIL 17–MAY 2, 1863.—Grierson's Raid from La Grange, Tenn., to Baton Rouge, La.

SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

April 18–19, 1863.—Skirmish at New Albany, Miss.
19, 1863.—Skirmish at Pontotoc, Miss.
21, 1863.—Skirmish at Palo Alto, Miss.
24, 1863.—Skirmishes at Garlandville and Birmingham, Miss.
28, 1863.—Skirmish at Union Church, Miss.
29, 1863.—Skirmish at Brookhaven, Miss.
May 1, 1863.—Skirmish at Walls Post-Office, La.
Skirmishes near Greensburg and at Williams' Bridge, La.
2, 1863.—Skirmish at Roberts' Ford, Comite River, La.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, U. S. Army, commanding at La Grange.
No. 3.—Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, commanding expedition.
No. 4.—Col. Edward Hatch, Second Iowa Cavalry.
No. 5.—Brig. Gen. John Adams, C. S. Army.
No. 6.—Col. Wirt Adams, Mississippi Cavalry.
No. 7.—Lieut. Col. C. R. Barteau, Second Tennessee Cavalry.
No. 8.—Capt. A. B. Biffle, commanding picket.
No. 9.—Col. Alexander J. Brown, Fifty-fifth Tennessee Infantry.
No. 10.—Capt. B. F. Bryan, Stuart's cavalry, Miles' Legion.
No. 11.—Brig. Gen. A. Buford, C. S. Army.
No. 12.—Capt. S. B. Cleveland, Wirt Adams' (Mississippi) regiment.
No. 13.—Maj. J. De Baun, Ninth Louisiana Partisan Rangers.
No. 14.—Lieut. Col. George Gantt, Ninth Tennessee Cavalry Battalion.
No. 15.—Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner, C. S. Army.
No. 16.—Maj. W. H. Garland, Mississippi Cavalry.
No. 17.—Maj. Gen. S. J. Gholson, Mississippi Militia.
No. 18.—Maj. Gen. William W. Loring, C. S. Army.
No. 19.—Col. W. R. Miles, Louisiana Legion.
No. 20.—Asst. Adjt. Gen. Thomas J. Portis, C. S. Army.
No. 21.—Col. R. V. Richardson, First Tennessee Partisan Rangers.
No. 22.—Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army.
No. 23.—Col. John M. Simonton, First Mississippi Infantry.
No. 24.—Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
April 29, 1863.

SIR: I have just received the inclosed telegram: *

Anticipating a gathering to oppose Grierson's return, I had mounted the Sixth Iowa Infantry, and sent them, with the Second Iowa Cavalry and Fourth Illinois, this morning toward Okolona to relieve Grierson.

* See No. 2, p. 521.

I think he will come in above Okolona and toward Corinth. I have full faith that he can cut through any force they can raise.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS.

HDQRS. SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS, *Memphis, Tenn., May* 5, 1863.

COLONEL: I consider it proper to report directly to the General-in-Chief the transactions in this army corps during the latter part of April, because the recent change of headquarters Department of the Tennessee isolates me from my immediate commander.

As the spring opened, I was daily more and more impressed with the feasibility of a plan, long entertained, of pushing a flying column of cavalry through the length of Mississippi, cutting the Southern Railroad. By consent and approval of General Grant, I prepared a system of movements along my entire line from Memphis to Corinth for the purpose of covering this cavalry dash. At the same time General Rosecrans proposed to me to cover a movement of 1,800 cavalry from Tuscumbia down into Alabama and Georgia. This did not interfere with my plan, but simply required extra force to be developed from Corinth. Delays incident to combined movements, especially from separate commands, kept his expeditionary column back for six days.

I commenced the movement from Corinth on the 15th; force as stated in report accompanying.

On the 17th, Col. B. H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, with his own regiment, the Seventh Illinois, and Second Iowa, moved from La Grange, by way of Pontotoc, with orders, after passing Pontotoc, to proceed straight down, throwing one regiment to the left toward Okolona, and to push for and destroy the Chunkey River Bridge and any others they could reach, and either return, or proceed to Baton Rouge, as might be found advisable.

On the same day, April 17, a column of infantry 1,500 strong, and one battery, moved by railroad from La Grange to Coldwater, with orders to push rapidly between Coldwater and the Tallahatchee, and take Chalmers in flank and rear while attacked in front by three regiments, a battery, and 200 cavalry from Memphis, which left here on the 18th. I considered that the effect of these movements would be to puzzle the enemy and withdraw his force from the central line, which has proven to be correct.

Chalmers was attacked at Coldwater; the stream found to be unfordable, but was held there until Smith's column from his rear approached from La Grange, when he broke into squads and disappeared. After holding the ground for three days, gathering 400 horses and mules and large supplies of bacon and forage, this force returned with small loss.

Grierson, on the 19th, detached the Second Iowa below Pontotoc, which fought its way gallantly back to La Grange and came home well mounted. The main cavalry column (Sixth and Seventh Illinois) proceeded, without loss or engagement, to Newton, on the Southern Mississippi Railroad, and there destroyed bridges, &c. They then swept around to Hazlehurst, on the New Orleans and Jackson road, and destroyed heavy trestle. I inclose copies of Southern reports of their progress.* I have no doubt they are before this at Baton Rouge, or have joined General Grant at or below Grand Gulf.

* Not found.

I desire especially to call the attention of the General-in-Chief to this gallant exploit of Colonel Grierson, one, I think, unequaled in the war, and to ask such testimonial of approbation from the Government as his services deserve. Streight's expedition has been attacked, but the attack was heavily repulsed, and they are now on their way, with good prospects of success.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

Col. J. C. KELTON,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Hdqrs. of the Army, Washington, D. C.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, U. S. Army, commanding at La Grange.

LA GRANGE, *April* 29, 1863.

A scout by the name of Bell, in General Veatch's employ, is just in from Jackson, Miss. He says Grierson has destroyed 20 miles of the Southern road, having burned thirteen trestles and destroyed one tunnel (or culvert, perhaps), and captured three trains of cars.

Chalmers left Oxford on Sunday evening with about 1,500 men, destination said to be Okolona, to close in on Grierson.

My expedition under Hatch left at 4 o'clock this morning, about 1,200 strong, with orders to push down toward Okolona and Columbus, and aid Grierson to the utmost. Cannot a force be sent from Corinth or Tuscumbia toward Okolona with all haste, to co-operate with Hatch and Grierson? If they can all get in at the death, they will use Chalmers up.

[W. S.] Featherston's brigade is at or near Panola. One brigade at Canton and one at Grenada.

WM. SOOY SMITH,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. Gen. STEPHEN A. HURLBUT.

No. 3.

Reports of Col. Benjamin H. Grierson, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, commanding expedition.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Five Miles south of Pontotoc, April 14, 1863.

GENERAL: At 3 a. m. I send an expedition, composed of the less effective portion of the command, to return by the most direct route to La Grange. Major Love, selected to take command, will hand you this. They pass through Pontotoc in the night, marching by fours, obliterating our tracks, and producing the impression that we have all returned. I have ascertained that the bridges on the Mississippi Central Railroad, over the Yockeney, at Water Valley, have never been repaired, and I thought the forces could be used to better advantage

than by sending a regiment to Oxford, as they would be obliged to return to New Albany to recross the Tallahatchee. I have ordered a single scout, however, to go from Pontotoc toward Oxford, strike the railroad, and destroy the wires.

I start at 4 o'clock in the morning, and on the night of the 20th shall be 50 miles below here. Everything looks exceedingly favorable. Rest assured that I shall spare no exertion to make the expedition as effective as possible. I may possibly find an opportunity to communicate with you again in four or five days, but do not wonder if you should not hear from me in thirty days.

We have yet encountered no force except the unorganized cavalry scattered through the country. We have succeeded in killing 4 or 5, and wounding and capturing a number. The prisoners return with this expedition.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. H. GRIERSON,
Colonel, Commanding Cavalry Brigade.

Brig. Gen. W. S. SMITH,
Commanding United States Forces at La Grange.

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HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Baton Rouge, La., May 5, 1863.

COLONEL: In accordance with instructions from Maj. Gen. S. A. Hurlbut, received through Brig. Gen. W. S. Smith, at La Grange, Tenn., I left that place at daylight on the morning of April 17, with the effective force of my command, 1,700 strong. We moved southward without material interruption, crossing the Tallahatchee River on the afternoon of the 18th at three different points. One battalion of the Seventh Illinois, under Major Graham, crossing at New Albany, found the bridge partially torn up, and an attempt was made to fire it. As they approached the bridge they were fired upon, but drove the enemy from their position, repaired the bridge, and crossed. The balance of the Seventh Illinois and the whole of the Sixth crossed at a ford 2 miles above, and the Second Iowa crossed about 4 miles still farther up. After crossing, the Sixth and Seventh Illinois moved south on the Pontotoc road, and encamped for the night on the plantation of Mr. Sloan. The Second Iowa also moved south from their point of crossing, and encamped about 4 miles south of the river. The rain fell in torrents all night.

The next morning, April 19, I sent a detachment eastward to communicate with Colonel Hatch and make a demonstration toward Chesterville, where a regiment of cavalry was organizing. I also sent an expedition to New Albany, and another northwest toward King's Bridge, to attack and destroy a portion of a regiment of cavalry organizing there under Major [A. H.] Chalmers. I thus sought to create the impression that the object of our advance was to break up these parties.

The expedition eastward communicated with Colonel Hatch, who was still moving south parallel to us. The one to New Albany came upon 200 rebels near the town, and engaged them, killing and wounding several. The one northwest found that Major Chalmers' command, hearing of our close proximity, had suddenly left in the night, going west.

After the return of these expeditions, I moved with the whole force to Pontotoc. Colonel Hatch joined us about noon, reporting having skir-

mished with about 200 rebels the afternoon before and that morning, killing, wounding, and capturing a number.

We reached Pontotoc about 5 p. m. The advance dashed into the town, came upon some guerrillas, killed 1, and wounded and captured several more. Here we also captured a large mill, about 400 bushels of salt, and camp equipage, books, papers, &c., of Captain Weatherall's command, all of which were destroyed. After slight delay, we moved out, and encamped for the night on the plantation of Mr. Daggett, 5 miles south of Pontotoc, on the road toward Houston.

At 3 o'clock the next morning, April 20, I detached 175 of the least effective portion of the command, with one gun of the battery and all the prisoners, led horses, and captured property, under the command of Major Love, of the Second Iowa, to proceed back to La Grange, marching in column of fours, before daylight, through Pontotoc, and thus leaving the impression that the whole command had returned. Major Love had orders also to send off a single scout to cut the telegraph wires south of Oxford.

At 5 a. m. I proceeded southward with the main force on the Houston road, passing around Houston about 4 p. m., and halting at dark on the plantation of Benjamin Kilgore, 11½ miles southeast of the latter place, on the road toward Starkville.

The following morning at 6 o'clock I resumed the march southward, and about 8 o'clock came to the road leading southeast to Columbus, Miss. Here I detached Colonel Hatch, with the Second Iowa Cavalry and one gun of the battery, with orders to proceed to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in the vicinity of West Point, and destroy the road and wires; thence move south, destroying the railroad and all public property as far south, if possible, as Macon; thence across the railroad, making a circuit northward; if practicable, take Columbus and destroy all Government works in that place, and again strike the railroad south of Okolona, and, destroying it, return to La Grange by the most practicable route.

Of this expedition, and the one previously sent back, I have since heard nothing, except vague and uncertain rumors through secession sources.

These detachments were intended as diversions, and even should the commanders not have been able to carry out their instructions, yet, by attracting the attention of the enemy in other directions, they assisted us much in the accomplishment of the main object of the expedition.

After having started Colonel Hatch on his way, with the remaining portion of the command, consisting of the Sixth and Seventh Illinois Cavalry, about 950 strong, I continued on my journey southward, still keeping the Starkville road. Arriving at Starkville about 4 p. m., we captured a mail and a quantity of Government property, which we destroyed. From this point we took the direct road to Louisville. We moved out on this road about 4 miles, through a dismal swamp nearly belly-deep in mud, and sometimes swimming our horses to cross streams, when we encamped for the night in the midst of a violent rain. From this point I detached a battalion of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry under ——— ———, to proceed about 4 miles, and destroy a large tannery and shoe manufactory in the service of the rebels. They returned safely, having accomplished the work most effectually. They destroyed a large number of boots and shoes and a large quantity of leather and machinery; in all amounting, probably, to $50,000, and captured a rebel quartermaster from Port Hudson, who was there laying in a supply for his command.

We now immediately resumed the march toward Louisville, distant

28 miles, mostly through a dense swamp, the Noxubee River bottom. This was for miles belly-deep in water, so that no road was discernible. The inhabitants through this part of the country generally did not know of our coming, and would not believe us to be anything but Confederates. We arrived at Louisville soon after dark. I sent a battalion of the Sixth Illinois, under Major Starr, in advance, to picket the town and remain until the column had passed, when they were relieved by a battalion of the Seventh Illinois, under Major Graham, who was ordered to remain until we should have been gone an hour, to prevent persons leaving with information of the course we were taking, to drive out stragglers, preserve order, and quiet the fears of the people. They had heard of our coming a short time before we arrived, and many had left, taking only what they could hurriedly move. The column moved quietly through the town without halting, and not a thing was disturbed. Those who remained at home acknowledged that they were surprised. They had expected to be robbed, outraged, and have their houses burned. On the contrary, they were protected in their persons and property.

After leaving the town, we struck another swamp, in which, crossing it, as we were obliged to, in the dark, we lost several animals drowned, and the men narrowly escaped the same fate. Marching until midnight, we halted until daylight at the plantation of Mr. Estes, about 10 miles south of Louisville.

The next morning, April 23, at daylight we took the road for Philadelphia, crossing Pearl River on a bridge about 6 miles north of the town. This bridge we were fearful would be destroyed by the citizens to prevent our crossing, and upon arriving at Philadelphia we found that they had met and organized for that purpose; but hearing of our near approach, their hearts failed, and they fled to the woods. We moved through Philadelphia about 3 p. m. without interruption, and halted to feed about 5 miles southeast, on the Enterprise road. Here we rested until 10 o'clock at night, when I sent two battalions of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn, to proceed immediately to Decatur, thence to the railroad at Newton Station. With the main force I followed about an hour later. The advance passed through Decatur about daylight, and struck the railroad about 6 a. m. I arrived about an hour afterward with the column. Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn dashed into the town, took possession of the railroad and telegraph, and succeeded in capturing two trains in less than half an hour after his arrival. One of these, 25 cars, was loaded with ties and machinery, and the other 13 cars were loaded with commissary stores and ammunition, among the latter several thousand loaded shells. These, together with a large quantity of commissary and quartermaster's stores and about five hundred stand of arms stored in the town, were destroyed. Seventy-five prisoners captured at this point were paroled. The locomotives were exploded and otherwise rendered completely unserviceable. Here the track was torn up, and a bridge half a mile west of the station destroyed. I detached a battalion of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry, under Major Starr, to proceed eastward and destroy such bridges, &c., as he might find over Chunkey River. Having damaged as much as possible the railroad and telegraph, and destroyed all Government property in the vicinity of Newton, I moved about 4 miles south of the road and fed men and horses. The forced marches which I was compelled to make, in order to reach this point successfully, necessarily very much fatigued and exhausted my command, and rest and food were absolutely necessary for its safety.

From captured mails and information obtained by my scouts, I knew that large forces had been sent out to intercept our return, and having instructions from Major-General Hurlbut and Brigadier-General Smith to move in any direction from this point which, in my judgment, would be best for the safety of my command and the success of the expedition, I at once decided to move south, in order to secure the necessary rest and food for men and horses, and then return to La Grange through Alabama, or make for Baton Rouge, as I might hereafter deem best. Major Starr in the mean time rejoined us, having destroyed most effectually three bridges and several hundred feet of trestle-work, and the telegraph from 8 to 10 miles east of Newton Station.

After resting about three hours, we moved south to Garlandville. At this point we found the citizens, many of them venerable with age, armed with shot-guns and organized to resist our approach. As the advance entered the town, these citizens fired upon them and wounded one of our men. We charged upon them and captured several. After disarming them, we showed them the folly of their actions, and, released them. Without an exception they acknowledged their mistake, and declared that they had been grossly deceived as to our real character. One volunteered his services as guide, and upon leaving us declared that hereafter his prayers should be for the Union Army. I mention this as a sample of the feeling which exists, and the good effect which our presence produced among the people in the country through which we passed. Hundreds who are skulking and hiding out to avoid conscription, only await the presence of our arms to sustain them, when they will rise up and declare their principles; and thousands who have been deceived, upon the vindication of our cause would immediately return to loyalty.

After slight delay at Garlandville, we moved southwest about 10 miles, and camped at night on the plantation of Mr. Bender, 2 miles west of Montrose. Our men and horses having become gradually exhausted, I determined on making a very easy march the next day, looking more to the recruiting of my weary little command than to the accomplishment of any important object; consequently I marched at 8 o'clock the next morning, taking a west, and varying slightly to a northwest, course. We marched about 5 miles, and halted to feed on the plantation of Elias Nichols.

After resting until about 2 p. m., during which time I sent detachments north to threaten the line of railroad at Lake Station and other points, we moved southwest toward Raleigh, making about 12 miles during the afternoon, and halting at dark on the plantation of Dr. Mackadora.

From this point I sent a single scout, disguised as a citizen, to proceed northward to the line of the Southern Railroad, cut the telegraph, and, if possible, fire a bridge or trestle-work. He started on his journey about midnight, and when within 7 miles of the railroad he came upon a regiment of Southern cavalry from Brandon, Miss., in search of us. He succeeded in misdirecting them as to the place where he had last seen us, and, having seen them well on the wrong road, he immediately retraced his steps to camp with the news. When he first met them they were on the direct road to our camp, and had they not been turned from their course would have come up with us before daylight.

From information received through my scouts and other sources, I found that Jackson and the stations east as far as Lake Station had been re-enforced by infantry and artillery; and hearing that a fight was momentarily expected at Grand Gulf, I decided to make a rapid march, cross Pearl River, and strike the New Orleans, Jackson and Great.

Northern Railroad at Hazlehurst, and, after destroying as much of the road as possible, endeavor to get upon the flank of the enemy and cooperate with our forces, should they be successful in the attack upon Grand Gulf and Port Gibson.

Having obtained during this day plenty of forage and provisions, and having had one good night's rest, we now again felt ready for any emergency. Accordingly, at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 26th, we crossed Leaf River, burning the bridge behind us to prevent any enemy who might be in pursuit from following; thence through Raleigh, capturing the sheriff of that county, with about $3,000 in Government funds; thence to Westville, reaching this place soon after dark. Passing on about 2 miles, we halted to feed, in the midst of a heavy rain, on the plantation of Mr. Williams.

After feeding, Colonel Prince, of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, with two battalions, was sent immediately forward to Pearl River to secure the ferry and landing. He arrived in time to capture a courier who had come to bring intelligence of the approach of the Yankees and orders for the destruction of the ferry. With the main column, I followed in about two hours. We ferried and swam our horses, and succeeded in crossing the whole command by 2 p. m.

As soon as Colonel Prince had crossed his two battalions, he was ordered to proceed immediately to the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern Railroad, striking it at Hazlehurst. Here he found a number of cars containing about 500 loaded shells and a large quantity of commissary and quartermaster's stores, intended for Grand Gulf and Port Gibson. These were destroyed, and as much of the railroad and telegraph as possible. Here, again, we found the citizens armed to resist us, but they fled precipitately upon our approach.

From this point we took a northwest course to Gallatin, 4 miles; thence southwest 3½ miles to the plantation of Mr. Thompson, where we halted until the next morning.

Directly after leaving Gallatin we captured a 64-pounder gun, a heavy wagon load of ammunition, and machinery for mounting the gun, on the road to Port Gibson. The gun was spiked and the carriages and ammunition destroyed. During the afternoon it rained in torrents, and the men were completely drenched.

At 6 o'clock the next morning, April 28, we moved westward. After proceeding a short distance, I detached a battalion of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Captain Trafton, to proceed back to the railroad at Bahala and destroy the road, telegraph, and all Government property he might find. With the rest of the command, I moved southwest toward Union Church. We halted to feed at 2 p. m. on the plantation of Mr. Snyder, about 2 miles northeast of the church. While feeding, our pickets were fired upon by a considerable force. I immediately moved out upon them, skirmished with and drove them through the town, wounding and capturing a number. It proved to be a part of Wirt Adams' (Mississippi) cavalry. After driving them off, we held the town and bivouacked for the night. After accomplishing the object of his expedition, Captain Trafton returned to us about 3 o'clock in the morning of the 29th, having come upon the rear of the main body of Adams' command. The enemy having a battery of artillery, it was his intention to attack us in front and rear at Union Church about daylight in the morning, but the appearance of Captain Trafton with a force in his rear changed his purpose, and, turning to the right, he took the direct road to Port Gibson. From this point I made a strong demonstration toward Fayette, with a view of creating the impression that we were going toward Port

Gibson or Natchez, while I quietly took the opposite direction, taking the road leading southeast to Brookhaven, on the railroad.

Before arriving at this place, we ascertained that about 500 citizens and conscripts were organized to resist us. We charged into the town, when they fled, making but little resistance. We captured over 200 prisoners, a large and beautiful camp of instruction, comprising several hundred tents, and a large quantity of quartermaster's and commissary stores, arms, ammunition, &c. After paroling the prisoners and destroying the railroad, telegraph, and all Government property, about dark we moved southward, and encamped at Mr. Gill's plantation, about 8 miles south of Brookhaven.

On the following morning we moved directly south, along the railroad, destroying all bridges and trestle-work to Bogue Chitto Station, where we burned the depot and fifteen freight cars, and captured a very large secession flag. From thence we still moved along the railroad, destroying every bridge, water-tank, &c., as we passed, to Summit, which place we reached soon after noon. Here we destroyed twenty-five freight cars and a large quantity of Government sugar. We found much Union sentiment in this town, and were kindly welcomed and fed by many of the citizens.

Hearing nothing more of our forces at Grand Gulf, I concluded to make for Baton Rouge to recruit my command, after which I could return to La Grange, through Southern Mississippi and Western Alabama; or, crossing the Mississippi River, move through Louisiana and Arkansas. Accordingly, after resting about two hours, we started southwest, on the Liberty road, marched about 15 miles, and halted until daylight on the plantation of Dr. Spurlark.

1 The next morning we left the road and threatened Magnolia and Osyka, where large forces were concentrated to meet us; but, instead of attacking those points, took a course due south, marching through woods, lanes, and by-roads, and striking the road leading from Clinton to Osyka. Scarcely had we touched this road when we came upon the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry [Battalion], posted in a strong defile, guarding the bridges over Tickfaw River. We captured their pickets, and, attacking them, drove them before us, killing, wounding, and capturing a number. Our loss in this engagement was 1 man killed, and Lieut. Col. William D. Blackburn and 4 men wounded.

I cannot speak too highly of the bravery of the men upon this occasion, and particularly of Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn, who, at the head of his men, charged upon the bridge, dashed over, and, by undaunted courage, dislodged the enemy from his strong position. After disposing of the dead and wounded, we immediately moved south, on the Greensburg road, recrossing the Tickfaw River at Edwards' Bridge. At this point we met [W. H.] Garland's rebel cavalry, and, with one battalion of the Sixth Illinois and two guns of the battery, engaged and drove them off without halting the column.

The enemy were now on our track in earnest. We were in the vicinity of their stronghold, and, from couriers and dispatches which we captured, it was evident they were sending forces in all directions to intercept us. The Amite River, a wide and rapid stream, was to be crossed, and there was but one bridge by which it could be crossed, and this was in exceedingly close proximity to Port Hudson. This I determined upon securing before I halted. We crossed it at midnight, about two hours in advance of a heavy column of infantry and artillery, which had been sent there to intercept us. I moved on to Sandy Creek, where Hughes' cavalry [battalion], under Lieutenant-Colonel

[C. C.] Wilbourn, were encamped, and where there was another main road leading to Port Hudson.

We reached this point at first dawn of day; completely surprised and captured the camp, with a number of prisoners. Having destroyed the camp, consisting of about one hundred and fifty tents, a large quantity of ammunition, guns, public and private stores, books, papers, and public documents, I immediately took the road to Baton Rouge. Arriving at the Comite River, we utterly surprised Stuart's cavalry [Miles' Legion], who were picketing at this point, capturing 40 of them, with their horses, arms, and entire camp. Fording the river, we halted to feed within 4 miles of the town. Major-General Augur, in command at Baton Rouge, having now, for the first, heard of our approach, sent two companies of cavalry, under Captain [J. Franklin] Godfrey, to meet us. We marched into the town about 3 p. m., and we were most heartily welcomed by the United States forces at this point.

Before our arrival in Louisville, Company B, of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, under Captain Forbes, was detached to proceed to Macon, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad; if possible take the town, destroy the railroad and telegraph, and rejoin us. Upon approaching the place, he found it had been re-enforced, and the bridge over the Okanoxubee River destroyed, so that the railroad and telegraph could not be reached.

He came back to our trail, crossed the Southern Railroad at Newton, took a southeast course to Enterprise, where, although his force numbered only 35 men, he entered with a flag of truce and demanded the surrender of the place. The commanding officer at that point asked an hour to consider the matter, which Captain Forbes (having ascertained that a large force occupied the place) granted, and improved in getting away. He immediately followed us, and succeeded in joining the column while it was crossing Pearl River at Georgetown. In order to catch us, he was obliged to march 60 miles per day for several consecutive days. Much honor is due Captain Forbes for the manner in which he conducted this expedition.

At Louisville I sent Captain Lynch, of Company E, Sixth Illinois Cavalry, and one man of his company, disguised as citizens, who had gallantly volunteered to proceed to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad and cut the wires, which it was necessary should be done to prevent information of our presence from flying along the railroad to Jackson and other points. Captain Lynch and his comrade proceeded toward Macon, but, meeting with the same barrier which had stopped Captain Forbes, could not reach the road. He went to the pickets at the edge of the town, ascertained the whole disposition of their forces and much other valuable information, and, returning, joined us above Decatur, having ridden without interruption for two days and nights without a moment's rest. All honor to the gallant captain, whose intrepid coolness and daring characterizes him on every occasion.

During the expedition we killed and wounded about 100 of the enemy, captured and paroled over 500 prisoners, many of them officers, destroyed between 50 and 60 miles of railroad and telegraph, captured and destroyed over 3,000 stand of arms, and other army stores and Government property to an immense amount; we also captured 1,000 horses and mules.

Our loss during the entire journey was 3 killed, 7 wounded, 5 left on the route sick; the sergeant-major and surgeon of the Seventh Illinois left with Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn, and 9 men missing, supposed to have straggled. We marched over 600 miles in less than sixteen days. The last twenty-eight hours we marched 76 miles, had

four engagements with the enemy, and forded the Comite River, which was deep enough to swim many of the horses. During this time the men and horses were without food or rest.

Much of the country through which we passed was almost entirely destitute of forage and provisions, and it was but seldom that we obtained over one meal per day. Many of the inhabitants must undoubtedly suffer for want of the necessaries of life, which have reached most fabulous prices.

Two thousand cavalry and mounted infantry were sent from the vicinity of Greenwood and Grenada northeast to intercept us; 1,300 cavalry and several regiments of infantry with artillery were sent from Mobile to Macon, Meridian, and other points on the Mobile and Ohio road; a force was sent from Canton northeast to prevent our crossing Pearl River, and another force of infantry and cavalry was sent from Brookhaven to Monticello, thinking we would cross Pearl River at that point instead of Georgetown. Expeditions were also sent from Vicksburg, Port Gibson, and Port Hudson to intercept us. Many detachments were sent out from my command at various places to mislead the enemy, all of which rejoined us in safety. Colton's pocket map of Mississippi, which, though small, is very correct, was all I had to guide me; but by the capture of their couriers, dispatches, and mails, and the invaluable aid of my scouts, we were always able by rapid marches to evade the enemy when they were too strong and whip them when not too large.

Colonel Prince, commanding the Seventh Illinois, and Lieutenant-Colonel Loomis, commanding the Sixth Illinois, were untiring in their efforts to further the success of the expedition, and I cannot speak too highly of the coolness, bravery, and, above all, of the untiring perseverance of the officers and men of the command during the entire journey. Without their hearty co-operation, which was freely given under the most trying circumstances, we could not have accomplished so much with such signal success.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. H. GRIERSON,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 4.

Report of Col. Edward Hatch, Second Iowa Cavalry.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *April* 27, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that, complying with orders from Colonel Grierson, commanding First Cavalry Brigade, I left camp with my regiment, at La Grange, Tenn., April 17, and marched with brigade to the neighborhood of Ripley, Miss., and camped.

On the morning of the 18th of April, by order of Colonel Grierson, marched my regiment east of Ripley 3 miles, thence southeast through Molino, and camped 5 miles south, of that place, skirmishing during the day with Smith's regiment of Partisan Rangers, organized near there at a place known as Chesterville.

On the 19th, marched southwest, forming a junction with Colonel Grierson 5 miles south of Pontotoc. There Major Love, of my regiment, was detached, with a portion of my regiment, to return to La Grange, reducing me to about 500 men.

On the morning of the 20th, marched with Colonel Grierson 13 miles southeast of Houston, and camped.

On the morning of the 21st of April, complying with Colonel Grierson's order, was ordered to move in the rear of his column at 3 a. m., leaving Grierson at the junction of the roads leading to Louisville and West Point and Columbus, thence to proceed to the railroad at West Point, destroying the railroad bridge over the Oktibbeha River; thence move rapidly southward to Macon, destroying the railroad and Government stores; then to find my way north to La Grange by the most practicable route.

For some reason unknown to me, the column did not move until 7 a. m. This delay in time in the following report will show it was fatal to carrying out Colonel Grierson's order. At the point Colonel Grierson turned south from the direction I was to travel, a detachment of my regiment moved with him 4 miles, then marched back to this point to obliterate the tracks of Colonel Grierson, going south with the Sixth and Seventh Illinois Cavalry. In this way I was delayed three hours, thus enabling the enemy's cavalry, which had been concentrating for some days in anticipation of a movement on Columbus, to fall upon me. About 12 o'clock, on reaching the town of Palo Alto, I was attacked in rear and on each flank by a force under General [S. J.] Gholson, consisting of Smith's partisan regiment, [C. R.] Barteau's regiment, and [W. M.] Inge's battalion. In my front, between me and West Point, was an Alabama regiment, recently from Pensacola, with artillery, my front being well protected by the Houlka River.

In the attack made by the enemy, a company in the rear was cut off and nearly all taken. The enemy then closed in on my flanks, and advanced in two lines on my rear, with two flags of truce flying, enabling him to approach very close, my command being at that time in a lane, with high fences and hedges upon either side, my men dismounted and well covered. Changing my front to the rear, I waited until the enemy were close upon me, and opened with my rifles and one 2-pounder from the front and with carbines on the flanks, breaking his lines and driving him back, pushing the enemy about 3 miles, capturing arms and horses, and retaking the company lost in the first attack. From that time until dark it was a constant skirmish, the enemy having taken me for the main column. Believing it was important to divert the enemy's cavalry from Colonel Grierson, I moved slowly northward, fighting by the rear, crossing the Houlka River, and drawing their forces immediately in my rear.

On the 22d, marched north near the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, the enemy continuing to follow, their forces augmented by all the citizens in the country, armed with shot-guns and hunting rifles, firing constantly on our flanks. At 4 p. m. attacked Okolona, driving out the enemy's cavalry and State forces, burning the barracks for 5,000 men, and destroying stores and ammunition. I then marched northwest 5 miles and camped.

On the 23d, marched north, and hearing that Chalmers' forces intended cutting me off, I destroyed the bridges over the Chiwapa Creek, to check the forces following me in the rear. Camped that night near Tupelo.

On the 24th, marched north through Birmingham, where I was attacked in the rear by what I believe to be Chalmers' forces, at 10 a. m. My ammunition giving out, I retreated slowly toward Molino, stopping occasionally to repel their charges, concealing my men at all favorable points with the 2-pounder, which did excellent service. I waited until the enemy were nearly on me, when I opened a fire at short range, the enemy suffering terribly, with small loss to me. In this way the attack was kept up for 6 miles, when the enemy were evidently tired, and, with the exception of annoyance from guerrilla parties, we were not troubled by the enemy from that point to La Grange, where I arrived on the 26th.

We captured about three hundred shot-guns and rifles, mostly Enfield, which, for want of transportation, were destroyed, and have had but 10 men killed, wounded, and missing. I left camp with 70 rounds of ammunition, and had 10 on reaching it. I had decided on reaching Okolona to go south, but upon examining my ammunition I had but 21 rounds left, which did not warrant the movement.

The fight at Palo Alto gave the enemy time to guard the railroad at West Point and prepare for an attack on Columbus, with some 2,000 State troops, under General Ruggles.

I left camp with 250 horses, worn out, which broke down at the end of the second day, and mounted my men upon the mules from my train and borrowed mules. I have nearly mounted my regiment, returned the mules borrowed, and filled up my train, captured 50 prisoners, and killed and wounded not less than 100 of the enemy.

The fight at Palo Alto, and diverting the enemy from Colonel Grierson, has undoubtedly given him thirty-six hours' start.

Inclosed I send list of prisoners captured; also duplicates of paroles given.* The prisoners taken near Pontotoc were turned over to Major Love, of my regiment.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD HATCH,
Colonel Second Iowa Cavalry.

Capt. W. H. HARLAND,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., First Division, Sixteenth Army Corps.

No. 5.

Reports of Brig. Gen. John Adams, C. S. Army.

LAKE, *April* 25, 1863.

Five hundred Federals at Newton Station this morning at 2 o'clock; have certainly gone to Enterprise. Heavy firing heard in direction of Meridian this morning. One regiment of Confederates came from Meridian to Hickory Station yesterday without ammunition. They went back, so General Loring must know of the enemy. My engine has just arrived; report another heavy column of cavalry advancing on Newton Station from Decatur, Miss., and going to Enterprise. Telegraph operator was left beyond Newton, putting up wire to Meridian. Eleven small bridges burned between Newton and Meridian. I await further orders.

JOHN ADAMS,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

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* Omitted.

LAKE, *April* 25, 1863—3 a. m.

Arrived 2.20 o'clock. Sent an engine with dispatches and couriers to communicate with Generals Loring, Johnston, and Buckner. Will wait until engine returns, or say 8 a. m. Report says enemy 300 strong left Newton Station in direction of Enterprise at 4 p. m.

JOHN ADAMS,
Brigadier-General.

[General PEMBERTON.]

—

LAKE, *April* 25, 1863—8.50 a. m.

Am waiting return of party sent to open communication with Meridian. Engine of my train sent with party.

JOHN ADAMS,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

GENERAL: Did you get a dispatch from General Adams, dated 3 o'clock this morning? The courier being absent (delivering a message) at the time of its reception, I left it by his bedside with lighted candle near it.

Respectfully,

OPERATOR,
Jackson Office.

—

LAKE, *April* 25, 1863.

Passengers just from Meridian report no enemy at Enterprise at 12 m. to-day. Enemy supposed to be moving westward and between us. Unless otherwise ordered, shall move to Morton Station.

JOHN ADAMS,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

—

LAKE, *April* 25, 1863.

The following dispatches were sent by the same means to Generals Loring, Buckner, and Johnston:

General LORING:

Return at once in direction of Jackson with all your available force.
By direction of General Pemberton.

General JOHNSTON:

Railroad communication interrupted above this point by enemy. General Pemberton directs me to inform you he is sorely pressed on all sides, and urges you to send at once 2,000 cavalry to fall on rear of enemy.

General BUCKNER:

All is lost unless you can send a regiment or two to Meridian. General Pemberton directs me to urge you to send.

JOHN ADAMS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Commanding.

No. 6.

Reports of Col. Wirt Adams, Mississippi Cavalry.

FAYETTE, *April* 29, 1863.

Three of my companies from Natchez, marching to join me, met and engaged the Federal cavalry force last evening 20 miles above this, making a forced march of 20 miles from Port Gibson, with two companies and two mountain pieces. I passed the enemy's flank last night, and formed junction with the three companies directly in enemy's front, intending to engage him. This morning, 8 o'clock, found he had marched rapidly in direction of Brookhaven. Thinking it was his intention to reach Rodney or Natchez, I marched my command to this point, where I have been joined by five companies. Shall now march to intercept his movement toward Baton Rouge.

WIRT ADAMS,
Colonel, Commanding.

General PEMBERTON.

NEAR FAYETTE, *May* 5, 1863.

GENERAL: I pursued the cavalry to a point near Greensburg, in Louisiana, near which place they forded the Amite River, and made good their escape to Baton Rouge. Notwithstanding I marched over 50 miles per day, and moved during day and night, yet the distance I had to traverse from west to east to reach the line of their march, and owing to their use of the most skillful guides and unfrequented roads, I found it impossible, to my great mortification and regret, to overhaul them. During the last twenty-four hours of their march in this State, they traveled at a sweeping gallop, the numerous stolen horses previously collected furnishing them fresh relays. I have marched as rapidly as possible on my return to this point, and, in the absence of other orders, shall move to-day against the enemy's line of communication from the Mississippi River to Port Gibson. I shall annoy and harass him on his rear and flank, and then move toward his front, and communicate with the general commanding between Port Gibson and the railroad. I venture, general, to address you direct, pending this difficulty of communication with Major-General Stevenson.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WIRT ADAMS,
Colonel, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON, *Jackson.*

P. S.—The wounded lieutenant-colonel and associates of the Federal cavalry stated that their object had been to take Natchez and connect above with Grant's army, and that it had been defeated by the check they received at Union Church and the reports they received of my strength in their front.

No. 7.

Reports of Lieut. Col. C. R. Barteau, Second Tennessee Cavalry.

NEAR PALO ALTO, ON WEST POINT ROAD,
April 22, 1863—7 a. m.

GENERAL: By rapid marches, after concentrating our forces near and above Verona, I overtook the enemy at Palo Alto 2 p. m. yesterday. I

immediately attacked him in the rear, and a fight ensued, which lasted nearly until dark, when I again got in his rear, between the enemy and the railroad. I am now waiting here to join Colonel [James] Cunningham, whose arrival from Okolona is expected. The enemy last night retreated from Palo Alto up the Houston road 2 miles, and was re-enforced by a column which had been sent to Starkville. I do not know whether we can succeed in gobbling up this force, as I desire to do, and would suggest that if Columbus is not threatened from east side of Tombigbee, you immediately mount as much of the force as possible at Columbus, and move to West Point, and thence to Palo Alto. We will not, if possible, allow the enemy to reach the railroad.

Respectfully,

C. R. BARTEAU,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

[General DANIEL RUGGLES.]

—

OKOLONA, MISS., *April* 30, 1863.

On the 18th instant, I learned from my scouts that a Federal force, variously estimated in strength, was advancing from the direction of Grand Junction toward New Albany. It reached Cherry Creek, 7 miles north of Pontotoc, the same day, and encamped there that night. Thinking that the movement might be to break up the camp of State troops at Chesterville, I moved my regiment to that place on the 19th instant.

At 10 o'clock that night, I learned that late in the evening the force had moved down to Pontotoc. I then thought the raid would be upon Okolona and Aberdeen; so I moved at 12 o'clock, with Colonel [J. F.] Smith, Major [W. M.] Inge, and Captain [T. W.] Ham, with four companies, to the Verona and Pontotoc road, my object being to intercept the enemy on the Pontotoc and Aberdeen road. For this purpose, at daylight, I left Garman's Mills, 2 miles south of the Pontotoc and Verona road, and at 8.30 a. m. entered the Pontotoc and Okolona road 8 miles above the latter place. I then moved immediately on to Pontotoc, intending, if the enemy were there, to attack him at once and ascertain his strength. Within 5 miles of Pontotoc, I learned that the enemy had left at 8 o'clock on the Houston road, but that a portion of the force (which I suppose was 300) was sent out on the Oxford road. Arriving at Pontotoc, I learned that this detachment had gone back toward New Albany, and would not accompany the expedition farther south. He was three hours ahead of me, and traveling at a rapid rate. The column which moved toward Houston was 925 strong, with four pieces of artillery. I immediately gave pursuit, and that night rested three hours 1½ miles north of Houston, after an almost continuous march of 67½ miles. The enemy, however, encamped the same night at Dr. Kilgore's, 11½ miles south of Houston, on the Starkville road.

At 11 a. m. of [April] 22d, I was at Dr. Kilgore's, and the enemy two hours ahead of me. After moving half an hour longer, my advance guard fired upon a party of 20 of the enemy, supposed to be the rear guard. This party fled, and took the Starkville road. The enemy had divided, 200 going to Starkville and 700 continuing their march on the West Point road, and at 2 o'clock (having taken the West Point road) I drove in their rear guard 2 miles northwest of Palo Alto. The enemy at once formed and drove back my advance guard; but, as soon as the column arrived, I charged immediately upon the enemy, and

drove him back half a mile into a neck of woods near Palo Alto church. After skirmishing for advantage of ground for two hours or more, and finding that the enemy would not come out from his position, I placed Smith's regiment and Ham's four companies immediately in his front, dismounted, and, protected by the church, a small number of trees, and the brow of a slight eminence, I gave instructions that should the enemy advance on them to reserve their fire until he should arrive close enough to make it destructive and deadly, and to hold the position until a charge should be made fully in his rear; that I would move the Second Tennessee and Major Inge's battalion around to his rear and make the charge as soon as possible. This movement was being executed, but, before arriving at the proper point from which to make the charge on his rear, the enemy anticipated this, and poured a rapid fire upon Colonel Smith's regiment and Captain Ham's four companies, before which the men retreated in the utmost disorder, although everything was done which could have been by these two officers to make them stand and at least give the enemy one fire. The enemy immediately rushed upon these two commands, pursuing them back on the Houston road. I of course moved immediately on the West Point road, having accomplished a part of my object, which was to get between the enemy and West Point; but had not the troops given way so soon in front, I should have cut to pieces or captured the entire force of the enemy. Colonel Smith and Captain Ham, however, acted gallantly, and took the post of danger, endeavoring by their example to inspire confidence and insure success.

During the night, the enemy turned back his course and crossed on Houlka Creek toward Buena Vista. As I pursued him in the morning following, Lieutenant-Colonel [James] Cunningham joined me 3 miles from Palo Alto; Colonel Smith and Captain [T. W.] Ham with their commands also. The re-enforcement with Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham's command was too late to be of any service. In fact, the tardiness of his movements allowed the enemy to reach Okolona; for had he joined me before reaching Palo Alto, we should have routed and scattered the enemy. Had he remained at Okolona, he could have opposed his progress, and had he early in the morning of the 22d fallen upon the enemy's rear, when he knew that he was retreating, and was only 3 miles from him, the enemy could not have reached Okolona. He could have marched from Okolona several hours sooner than he did, and have joined me at Houston or at Dr. Kilgore's. Upon his late arrival he desired to assume command, which I declined to grant him, and remained in command of the forces. If I committed an error in this respect, I am subject to such remedy as the case may require.

The enemy marched from Buena Vista to Okolona two hours ahead of us. After following the Pontotoc road from Buena Vista 7 miles, he turned to the right, and crossed Chuckatouche Creek at Cox's Bridge; reached Okolona, I think, at 4 p. m. Remained but a short time; burned the hospital building, and went 5 miles out on the Pontotoc road, and encamped for the night. From Buena Vista, Major Inge, Captain Ham, and Colonel Smith moved directly on the Pontotoc road, and encamped on that road. The Second Alabama and Second Tennessee moved out 2 miles, and attempted to cross Chuckatouche Creek and reach Okolona that night, but there being no bridge, and the water swimming deep, were compelled to remain until daylight in the morning of the 23d, when they moved to Okolona; thence in pursuit of the enemy on the Pontotoc road, and joined with the three other commands at Bramlett's, 3 miles from Edwards Mills. The enemy had crossed Chiwapa Creek at Garman's Mills at 2 p. m., and destroyed the bridge, having turned

his direction from Pontotoc to Verona. He encamped 4 miles west of Verona for two hours; moved on at 4 o'clock, went to Harrisburg, turned northward, and encamped for the night at Shaurer's. The bridge being destroyed at Garman's Mills, we determined to make the pursuit by crossing at Edwards Mills. But before marching from Bramlett's, Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham informed us that his command was exhausted and without rations; that he could not continue the pursuit. This materially reduced our strength, for many of our men had to be left on account of horses broken down by such continuous marching; but the pursuit was made with the Second Tennessee, Major Inge's battalion, Colonel Smith's regiment, and Captain Ham's four companies, with not exceeding 10 rounds of ammunition to the man. At 11.30 a. m. we overtook the enemy, and drove in his rear guard 1 mile south of Birmingham, at which place he formed to receive us. We fought him there about two hours and twenty minutes, driving him in confusion across Camp Creek, 1½ miles from Birmingham. After crossing the creek, the enemy destroyed the bridge, and our ammunition being exhausted, the pursuit could not be continued.

In the fight, Major Inge's battalion, Captain Cole's company, and, in fact, all the troops engaged, acted very gallantly. As it was not expedient to continue the pursuit, the several commands returned to the camping places which they had occupied before until they were ordered to rendezvous at Okolona.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. R. BARTEAU,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

Capt. R. M. HOOE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 8.

Reports of Capt. A. B. Biffle, commanding picket.

CAMP ON PLANK ROAD, *May* 2, 1863.

I saw Lieutenant [M. C.] Powers this evening. The Yankees surprised Captain [B. F.] Bryan, and captured him and nearly all of his men. This leaves my left and rear, also Clive Branch, exposed. I cannot learn where they came from, or where they are at this time.

Respectfully, your humble servant,

A. B. BIFFLE,
Captain.

Captain [A. G. CAGE.]

OUTPOST PICKET,
On Plank Road, May 2, 1863.

I have reliable information from one that I am well acquainted with that 1,400 Yankee cavalry entered Baton Rouge late this evening from the direction of Camp Moore, having in charge 150 C. S. Army prisoners, including Captain Bryan's company, the captain being in company. Our left and rear is entirely exposed. I have 40 men with me.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. B. BIFFLE,
Captain, Commanding Picket on Plank Road.

C. M. JACKSON,
Assistant Adjutant General.

No. 9.

Report of Col. Alexander J. Brown, Fifty-fifth Tennessee Infantry.

ON THE ROAD, SIX MILES FROM WILLIAMS' BRIDGE,
May 2, 1863—9.30 a. m.

SIR: A courier from Williams' Bridge, belonging to Captain Tazwell's [Terrell's?] company of cavalry, is just in, and informs me the enemy, 1,500 strong, crossed the bridge last night between 12 and 1 o'clock. They had four pieces of artillery. The detachment at the bridge captured a few prisoners.

A refugee from Greenwell Springs, belonging to a detachment of Hughes' battalion of cavalry, has also just reported to me, and represents the enemy at Greenwell Springs this morning just before day. Our cavalry, about 75 in number, scattered in every direction.

While writing, a courier from Clinton hands me your dispatch to Capt. J. B. Walker; unfortunately, however, about ten hours too late. Starting at the hour we did, it was impossible to have intercepted the enemy at Williams' Bridge. I go on to the bridge and await further orders.

With great respect, I remain, major,

ALEX. J. BROWN,
Col. 55th Regt. Tenn. Vols., and Comdg. Forces Williams' Bridge.

Maj. T. F. WILLSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 10.

Report of Capt. B. F. Bryan, Stuart's cavalry [Miles' Legion].

CLINTON, *May* 10, 1863.

COLONEL: On the morning of April 25, I received an order from Colonel [George] Gantt, in which he directed me to picket the Comite River, relieving Colonel [C. C.] Wilbourn's command. I immediately proceeded to carry out his instructions by placing a picket at what is called Haws' Ford, Roberts' Ford, Bogan's Ford, and Strickland's Ford, on the Comite River; also one at the Burlington Ferry, on the Amite River, fixing my camp near Roberts' Ford, on the Comite River, being the most central point between the different fords on the Comite River and 7 miles below Burlington Ferry, and on the morning of May 2, at about 9 a. m., I was surprised by a body of the enemy, under command of Colonel Grierson, numbering upward of 1,000 men. They made a dash and surrounded me on all sides before I was aware that they were other than our own troops, their advanced guard being dressed in citizens' garb. Indeed, I could not think it possible that an enemy could approach my camp without my being notified in ample time to be prepared to meet them, being confident that either Colonel Wilbourn's pickets or my own, at Burlington Ferry, would notify me of the enemy's approach in that direction. Most of my men being on picket, and having only about 30 of them immediately in camp, there was no possible chance of my making a stand; and, besides this, I had been on picket up to the eighth day, and my horses had had but one feed of corn within that time, and I necessarily had to graze them,

hence their capture. Lieutenant [Joseph] Hinson being at Greenwell Springs on the morning of my surprise, and hearing the report of firearms above, at what he supposed to be Colonel Wilbourn's camp, immediately proceeded to notify my picket at Burlington Ferry of the fact, instructing the sergeant to send a courier on road to my camp while he himself went another way to reach there, and both the lieutenant and courier were cut off and captured.

My loss in men, horses, bridles, saddles, guns, and cooking utensils, on this occasion, I beg leave most respectfully to submit in the following list:

Lost—38 men, 38 horses, 2 mules, 1 company wagon and harness, 1 borrowed wagon, 38 guns, 37 pistols, 2,000 rounds cartridges, and our cooking utensils. I would state that I have 6 horses left by the enemy at the Comite Bridge.

All of which, colonel, I most respectfully submit.

I am, colonel, most respectfully, yours,

B. F. BRYAN,
Captain, Commanding Stuart's Cavalry.

Col. W. R. MILES, *Miles' Legion.*

No. 11.

Report of Brig. Gen. A. Buford, C. S. Army.

MERIDIAN, *April* 25, 1863.

About 12.30 to-day the enemy demanded the surrender of Enterprise. General [W. W.] Loring arrived in time with re-enforcements. The enemy (reported to be cavalry, from 500 to 1,500 strong) fell back from Enterprise without attacking. I can hold this place. Nothing lost or destroyed on the Mobile road, and with 500 cavalry could capture the enemy.

[A.] BUFORD,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON, *Jackson.*

No. 12.

Report of Capt. S. B. Cleveland, Wirt Adams' (Mississippi) regiment.

UNION CHURCH, *April* 28, 1863—8 p. m.

Notify Colonel [Wirt] Adams, Grand Gulf, General [C. L.] Stevenson, Vicksburg, and General [Franklin] Gardner, Port Hudson, that the enemy are at Union Church, on the Natchez and Hazlehurst road. Tell the operator at Natchez they may look out for them there. I have been skirmishing with them for some hours this evening. Cannot ascertain their strength. They have four pieces of artillery. I have not more than 100 men in line.

S. B. CLEVELAND,
Captain, Commanding Detachment Wirt Adams' Regiment.

OPERATOR, *Fayette.*

[Indorsement.]

[APRIL 29, 1863]—1.15 a. m.

General PEMBERTON:

Above I respectfully submit a *verbatim* copy of a message which was received by the operator at Fayette, and has been transmitted to the parties addressed therein. As there was not a copy of it addressed to you, I have taken the liberty to inclose one.

Respectfully, &c.,

L. S. LINDSEY,
Operator, on Duty.

No 13.

Report of Maj. J. De Baun, Ninth Louisiana Partisan Rangers.

NEAR PORT HUDSON, *May* 6, 1863.

In obedience to Special Orders, No. 120, date April 28, 1863, I immediately proceeded with 80 men in the direction of Woodville, Miss., which place I reached on Wednesday, April 29, 1863, at 1 o'clock, when I reported by telegraph for further orders.

On the morning of Thursday, April 30, I received instructions from headquarters to proceed with all the cavalry to Osyka, Miss., and report to Colonel [W. R.] Miles, or to join Lieutenant-Colonel [George] Gantt in the direction of the enemy. Before leaving Woodville, I divided my command into two companies of 40 men each, one commanded by Lieutenant [B. B.] Starns and the other under Lieut. J. B. Dunn, of Company D, the whole under Captain [E. A.] Scott, senior captain. Finding at Woodville a detachment of 35 men under Lieutenant ——— ———, of Company A, Gantt's cavalry, I ordered them with me. This increased my force to 115 men. Not being able to ascertain the whereabouts of Lieutenant-Colonel Gantt, I proceeded in the direction of Osyka, to report to Colonel Miles. On the same day I reached John Reeves' farm, 30 miles from Osyka, on the Osyka and Centreville road, where I encamped for the night.

Early next morning (Friday, May 1) I resumed my line of march in the same direction. At 11.30 a. m., the men and horses being fatigued, I stopped to rest at Walls Bridge, 8 miles from Osyka. At about 11.45 a. m. a volley in the direction of our rear guard warned me that the enemy was in the neighborhood. I immediately ordered the bridge to be dismantled and the men ambushed, posting men at the bridge to destroy it as soon as the rear guard would have reported. Some ten minutes had now expired, and the rear guard not reporting, Capt. E. A. Scott went up the road to ascertain, if possible, the cause of the delay. I regret to say that he was captured by some of the enemy in the advance, wearing our uniform. At the bridge the road suddenly turns to the left, screening the road so the enemy could not be seen until they were at the bridge. A few minutes after the departure of Captain Scott, the enemy made their appearance at the bridge, delivering two volleys at the men there posted, without effect. Immediately my men opened a deadly fire upon them, lasting some ten minutes, killing and wounding, by their own acknowledgment, 16 men and killing 15 horses. Among the wounded were Colonel Prince and Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn, of the Sixth [Seventh] Illinois Cavalry. Colonel Prince has since died.* Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn is a prisoner, with 3 privates, dangerously wounded.

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*An error. He was mustered out on expiration of service, October, 1864.

Besides these, 5 prisoners were captured. So deadly was our fire that the enemy, who had succeeded in crossing the bridge, were compelled to recross it. They, however, immediately opened upon us with artillery, and were crossing the creek on our right.

My command being small, not more than 90 men having been engaged, and fearing to be surrounded, I ordered a retreat in the direction of Osyka, which was executed in good order.

At 5 p. m. I reached Osyka, but found no re-enforcements. Not being in force (the enemy being at least 1,000 strong and four pieces of artillery), I was unable to pursue them.

During the night cavalry re-enforcements, under Colonel [R. V.] Richardson, numbering 400 men, reached Osyka, when, at 2 a. m. May 2, we started in pursuit of the enemy toward Greensburg. On arriving at that place, we received positive information that the enemy had traveled all night, crossed Williams' Bridge, and were beyond our reach, in Baton Rouge. My men and horses being almost exhausted for want of food and rest, I proceeded to Camp Moore, it being the nearest commissary depot, and I returned to camp on Tuesday, May 5, when I reported in person.

My loss is 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, and 6 privates. The lieutenant and men belonged to the rear guard; all captured.

Too much praise cannot be awarded the officers and men composing the detachment for the bravery and coolness displayed, the officers fighting with their revolvers, and all showing a disposition to punish the daring of our enemies.

J. DE BAUN,
Major, Commanding Detachment.

Capt. T. F. WILLSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 14.

Report of Lieut. Col. George Gantt, Ninth Tennessee Cavalry Battalion.

OLIVE BRANCH, LA., *May* 4, 1863.

SIR: Upon the receipt of Lieutenant-General Pemberton's dispatch announcing the possibility that the raid of the enemy was designed to join Banks' army, and to send out all the available spare cavalry in the direction of Tangipahoa, I immediately sent off Colonel [C. C.] Wilbourn's battalion and Captains [T. R.] Stockdale's and [V. L.] Terrell's companies to Tangipahoa, with instructions to intercept the enemy and keep us advised of all information. Upon getting dispatch from you, stating that Hazlehurst Station had been captured by the enemy, I ordered a company at once to Clinton, La., with instructions to send out scouting parties on all the approaches to the northeast. Soon afterward I received your dispatch, directing me to send a company to Clinton and one to Woodville, and move with all the balance of the cavalry not needed on the front north of Clinton in the direction of Woodville. The company was sent at once to Woodville, and it and the company at Clinton were instructed to get the earliest and most accurate information by means of scouts, and keep the major-general and myself advised. With the balance of the spare cavalry (158 men of the Ninth Battalion Tennessee Cavalry) I moved up to Clinton, and from there to the northward on the Liberty road. At about 14 miles from Clinton I

received a dispatch from Colonel Wilbourn, stating that he was at Osyka, the enemy at Hazlehurst, and that he would move up in the direction of the enemy. I stopped at a point between Liberty and Woodville, so that I could take either direction as circumstances might require. Being informed that the enemy were moving in the direction of Natchez, I was preparing to go to Centreville, 15 miles east of Woodville, with the view of being in the near direction of the enemy, and keeping up communication with Colonel Wilbourn and the forces at Woodville; but before the movement was made I got information that the enemy was at Brookhaven. I at once moved to Liberty. There the dispatch of Lieutenant [W. S.] Wren announcing the capture of Brookhaven was conclusively shown to be unfounded at the time the dispatch was sent, by a later dispatch from him stating that the enemy had gone in the direction of Natchez. Colonel Wilbourn got both of these dispatches, and they caused him to do much traveling for nothing, and to keep him so perplexed as greatly retarded his movements. Not being able to determine from the contradictory statements what was the enemy's direction, I dispatched scouts, who returned on Thursday night between midnight and day, and brought certain information that the enemy had not only taken Brookhaven, but moved off as if going in the direction of Natchez, and suddenly reversed his course and captured Bogue Chitto and Summit. I prepared at once to move to Summit, but soon after starting learned from my scouts that the enemy was only a few miles off, having moved 12 miles in the direction of Liberty. I suspended the movement, believing that the enemy was making his way to Woodville.

About the same time I received Major-General [Franklin] Gardner's dispatch, advising me that the enemy had landed a force below Grand Gulf, and directing me to gather all the cavalry and attack the enemy in the direction of Brookhaven, and by all means not to allow the enemy to make a junction with the force landed below Grand Gulf. In view of this and the demonstration in the direction of Liberty, I took up the best position to hold the enemy in check with a small force, and sent couriers to Colonel Wilbourn, urging him to move speedily in the direction of the enemy, and advising him exactly where the enemy was. At this time it was undoubtedly the enemy's purpose to go to the force below Grand Gulf. Colonel Wilbourn, receiving my dispatch, moved down as promptly as he could, keeping between the enemy's cavalry and the force at Grand Gulf. He had got up communication also with Colonel [Wirt] Adams. As soon as I heard from him, and through him from Colonel Adams, and knew that they were advised of enemy's true position, I moved out in the direction of Osyka, encamping in a favorable position to resist if the enemy should attempt to pass out in the direction of Liberty or Clinton.

My information from Colonels Adams and Wilbourn was that early Saturday morning they would be in close proximity to the enemy. I had also what I regarded as most undoubted evidence that on Saturday the enemy would attempt to take Osyka, and, while Colonels Adams and Wilbourn attacked them from the direction they were approaching, [I] intended to attack them on the Osyka and Liberty road. Receiving intelligence that he would probably be attacked as indicated, the enemy suddenly abandoned the idea of taking Osyka and reaching the Mississippi above Port Hudson, and resolved to make his way out in the direction of Baton Rouge. He managed so as to completely deceive citizens and our scouts as to his purpose, and by a march of almost unprecedented rapidity moved off by the Greensburg road to Baton Rouge.

Before starting, he traveled for some distance in the direction of Osyka, announcing that he was going to capture that place.

In his march to Baton Rouge, he encountered the cavalry of Colonel [J. H.] Wingfield and one of my companies that had been ordered from Woodville to Osyka at Walls Bridge.

Our men behaved with great spirit, twice repulsing the enemy, and forcing him to bring up his artillery to dislodge them.

In this affair he lost a major, killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel [William D.] Blackburn, severely, if not mortally, wounded, besides about 12 privates wounded.

The enemy's force started from La Grange, Tenn., and consisted of three regiments—Sixth and Seventh Illinois and Second Iowa—the latter of which left them east of Jackson. It was their wish to return to the point from which they started. If not able to do that, then to go to the Mississippi above Port Hudson, and, if they could do no better, to pass out to Baton Rouge.

Colonels Adams and Wilbourn and myself came together early on Saturday, and, finding that the enemy had passed beyond our reach, gave up the pursuit.

I am, major, respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. GANTT,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Cavalry.

Major [T. F.] WILLSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 15.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Franklin Gardner, C. S. Army.

PORT HUDSON, *April* 26, 1863.

Telegram from Osyka that enemy have gone toward Enterprise. Farragut was at mouth of Red River last night. No news from Banks.

FRANK. GARDNER,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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PORT HUDSON, *April* 28, 1863.

I shall send a regiment of infantry to Clinton, La.

FRANK. GARDNER,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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PORT HUDSON, *April* 30, 1863.
(Received May 1.)

Enemy's raid at next station this side of Brookhaven. To-day my cavalry and [M. R.] Clark's conscripts will meet them at Summit. Miles' Legion will arrive at Magnolia day after to-morrow or next day.

FRANK. GARDNER,
Major-General.

General PEMBERTON.

HEADQUARTERS, *Port Hudson, La., May* 5, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that the enemy's cavalry raid (1,200 cavalry and one battery) passed successfully to Baton Rouge on the afternoon of the 2d instant, having evaded my cavalry, which was all out after them, and by an extraordinary march from Summit to Baton Rouge, between the afternoon of the 30th [ultimo] and the afternoon of the 2d [instant], they passed before the arrival of infantry and artillery that I sent out to intercept them. The enemy came suddenly on my outposts toward Baton Rouge, destroyed Wilbourn's camp, and captured a number of men from Captain [B. F.] Bryan's company.

I would respectfully urge the great necessity of increasing the cavalry force in this district and giving me a good cavalry commander. If it could be deemed expedient to abandon the post at Ponchatoula, that would enable me to concentrate a larger force of cavalry in my front. I also respectfully represent that the very limited wagon transportation at this post greatly interferes with any movement of troops and also the gathering in supplies.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK. GARDNER,
Major-General.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 16.

Report of Maj. W. H. Garland, Mississippi Cavalry.

ABOUT SIX MILES FROM GREENSBURG, *May* 1, 1863—8 p. m.

MAJOR: In accordance with orders from Colonel [George] Gantt, I moved my command toward Camp Moore. I traveled as rapidly as my jaded horses would allow, and, having taken a near road, I came on the Greensburg and Liberty road, and there met the Yankees in force. My advance and the enemy exchanged fire. They fired six shots from cannon—I think 6-pounders. They have marched on Greensburg this evening. They stopped at a house and took some horses, and said that they were on the way to Baton Rouge. If such be the fact, they will cross at Williams' Bridge, on the Amite River. If a force can be thrown there, they may yet be cut off. Williams' Bridge is about 16 miles from Greensburg and about 14 miles from Clinton. To stop them at Williams' Bridge is the last chance.

I have lost about 70 men, and the horses all broke down. I write in much haste.

Yours, respectfully,

W. H. GARLAND,
Major, Commanding.

Maj. T. F. WILLSON, *Port Hudson.*

No. 17.

Report of Maj. Gen. S. J. Gholson, Mississippi Militia.

OKOLONA, MISS., *April* 26, 1863.

Enemy that were here have been driven back. Fought at Birmingham and defeated them, killing some 20, wounding many others; among

the latter is their colonel. The party that were at Kosciusko are now between here and Starkville, advancing north.

S. J. GHOLSON.
Major-General.

Governor [JOHN J.] PETTUS.

No. 18.

Reports of Maj. Gen. William W. Loring, C. S. Army.

ENTERPRISE, *April* 25, 1863.

Enemy appeared here at 1 o'clock and demanded the town. They were represented as 1,500 strong. Colonel [Edward] Goodwin was here with the Thirty-fifth Alabama, who defied them. I hastened here with two regiments; enemy have fallen back at last accounts 3 miles. I am now on the road pursuing them. They are on the road to Paulding; think they will endeavor to go back by Newton or make their way to Baton Rouge. Have sent back to burn the bridge across Swimming Stream, between Paulding and Newton. Have sent two companies to guard bridge at Quitman, and directed bridges to be burned between Quitman and Paulding. I telegraphed to send force from Mobile to guard the De Soto and Quitman bridges. If they get there in time, and you can send force to intercept them at Newton, it will force them to go in the direction of Baton Rouge. Please order cavalry to intercept them in that direction. I have no hope of catching them on foot.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

General PEMBERTON.

ENTERPRISE, *April* 25, 1863.

I could not as expected intercept the enemy here. They were, when last heard from, at Garlandville, about 1,500. They will attempt to cross the road at Newton, or some point between Meridian and Jackson. I will endeavor to prevent their doing so this side of Newton.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

General PEMBERTON.

MERIDIAN, *April* 26, 1863.

Colonel [Edward] Goodwin reports enemy again within 3 miles of Enterprise. He thinks from their returning that they are in force.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

General PEMBERTON, *Jackson.*

MERIDIAN, *April* 27, 1863.

Our forces are from Newton to Shubuta, protecting the road and trying to prevent the enemy from recrossing.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

General PEMBERTON, *Jackson.*

MERIDIAN, *April* 27, 1863—10 p. m.

Westville in direction of Montrose. Have thought they would go that way, striking for Baton Rouge, as we have blocked their return by the way they came. No enemy near Enterprise. It is probable there was a small party near there, but all gone now. Think ordnance stores safe here.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

MERIDIAN, *April* 28, 1863.

I mounted 150 men yesterday, and started them off in direction of enemy.

W. W. LORING,
Major-General.

General PEMBERTON, *Jackson.*

No. 19.

Report of Col. W. R. Miles, Louisiana Legion.

HEADQUARTERS MILES' LEGION,
May 5, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to Special Orders, No. —, of the 29th ultimo, I marched the Legion to Clinton. On the 30th, I received a telegram from Major-General Gardner, ordering me to Osyka. As soon as arrangements could be made for wagons and rations, I started, and made about 6 miles the same evening. Resuming the march at an early hour on the 1st instant, I proceeded with all possible haste. Arriving at the Amite River, I found it extremely high, the bayou in the opposite swamp being so full as to swim. Captain [J. V.] Gallimard, of the sappers and miners, at once commenced the construction of a temporary bridge, and in five hours we were across with the artillery and trains. Continuing the march rapidly, we arrived within 6 miles of the Tickfaw River about sunset. At this place we learned a skirmish had occurred about noon at Tickfaw Bridge, and that the enemy had encamped at a distance of 4 or 5 miles in front. Halting the command, I at once sent out scouts to learn the position and strength of the enemy. They returned after some hours, bringing intelligence that he had not halted after the skirmish, but had pressed on with great rapidity toward Greensburg.

I found on the roadside 5 of the enemy wounded, including 1 lieutenant-colonel, and learned that one had been killed, and buried. There were with the wounded a surgeon and nurse.

I met at this place the cavalry commands of Col. Wirt Adams, Lieutenant-Colonel [G.] Gantt, and Lieutenant-Colonel [C. C.] Wilbourn, who had abandoned pursuit, learning that the enemy had crossed Williams' Bridge. At this time I received a telegram from Colonel [J. M.] Simonton, urging my presence on the railroad for a day or two, in consequence of which I marched out to Osyka, and remained until the reception of your note of the 2d instant, ordering my return to Port Hudson. In obedience to this order, I left Osyka yesterday morning. While halting for dinner, I received Special Orders, No. 125, ordering me to take post at Olive Branch. I will reach there late to-night or early to-morrow morning.

If I could have started one day sooner, or if our cavalry had hung upon the enemy's rear, retarding his march, Colonel Grierson, with his command of Yankee marauders, could have been hemmed in and captured.

The Legion has endured its exhausting march with patience, and is ready for any service to which it may be called.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. MILES,
Colonel, Commanding Legion.

Capt. T. F. WILLSON, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 20.

Report of Asst. Adjt. Gen. Thomas J. Portis, C. S. Army.

HDQRS. FOURTH MIL. DIST., DEPT. OF MISS. AND E. LA.,
Jackson, April 24, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that Brigadier-General Adams left the depot at this place this evening, a few minutes before 4 o'clock, with the Twenty-sixth Mississippi Regiment, numbering: Total, 420; aggregate, 456. Seven companies of the Fifteenth Mississippi Regiment: Total, 373; aggregate, 394.

The general was delayed on account of the troops not being supplied with rations, and because of the delay on the part of the artillery company and the want of transportation. The battery arrived at the depot, however, before the general left, but could not go for want of transportation.

Three companies of the Fifteenth Mississippi Regiment were left to go with the battery. Total, 111; aggregate, 123. They are now at the depot, awaiting the arrival of a locomotive to take them on.

The brigadier-general directed me to state that he would proceed to Morton Station; there await the arrival of the battery and the three companies left to go with it. He also directed me to inform you that he would endeavor to connect the telegraph wires at Morton, and communicate to you the condition of things, and also inform you as to what his movements will be from that point.

RECAPITULATION.

Command.	Total.	Aggregate.
26th Mississippi Regiment	420	456
15th Mississippi Regiment	484	517
Company A, Pointe Coupée Battery	75	78
Grand total and grand aggregate	979	1,051

Equipments of battery consist in: Two 3 and two 10 inch rifled guns, one 12-pounder howitzer, one 6-pounder gun, 4 caissons, and 53 head horses.

I have the honor, major, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. PORTIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 21.

Report of Col. R. V. Richardson, First Tennessee Partisan Rangers.

OSYKA, *May* 3, 1863.

DEAR SIR: In obedience to Special Orders, No. —, dated April 28, 1863, I repaired, at 9 p. m. of that day, to the depot at Jackson, supposing the train of troops to accompany me was ready to start. When I got to the depot, I was chagrined and surprised to find that the three companies of the Twentieth Mississippi Mounted Infantry, who were to constitute a portion of the forces subject to my orders in the movement projected against the enemy, with horses, were just beginning to be placed on the train.

About 2.30 a. m., April 29, 1863, the men and horses were all aboard. I inquired for the conductor, and learned that he was in bed at his chamber. I sent him an order to get up and proceed with his train immediately, or I would send for him a file of men. After a short time he came. He then inquired of the engineer whether he could pull the train, who replied that he could not, because there were too many cars in the train.

The conductor and engineer then said that three cars must be taken from the train. This was done. Now they said they had not wood enough to run the train to the next station, and they had no lamps. I inquired whether or not they had an ax to cut wood; they replied they had none. About daybreak they started with the train, and did not reach Hazlehurst until 11 a. m. In spite of all efforts, these men were churlish, and seemed to be laboring to defeat as far as possible the movement of troops. They claim their privilege of exemption from military service as employés of the railroad company. It should not be granted to men who are so unmindful of the public interests.

As we rolled into Hazlehurst, a citizen approached us in an excited manner, and said 1,000 Yankees were within a quarter of a mile of the place, approaching it. I did not much believe the report, but, as a measure of precaution, I ordered the train to be run back on the road about a mile. I then ordered the men to form on each side of the railroad, and 20 horses to be taken from the train, and sent out a scout in the direction of the reported advance of the enemy. The scouts returned in a half hour, and reported the enemy not to be found as reported.

I availed myself of every resource to get information as to the position and direction of movement of the enemy. He was reported to have been that Tuesday morning at Union Church, and to have engaged Col. Wirt Adams' command there; also that he was making his way for Natchez. He had been [seen] the previous evening at Bahala, by a detachment of 120 men which had gone west to Union Church. So far as I could judge, he was leaving the line of the railroad and was going to Natchez. Colonel Adams seemed to be close after him. I could get no information of the locality of any other command which you had ordered to report to me. It seemed that the proper direction for me to go, both for the purpose of reaching the enemy and gathering any portion of my command, except the three companies of the Twentieth Mississippi Regiment, then with me, was Union Church. After feeding the horses, at 1 o'clock I started on the Natchez road for Union Church. I got there at 9 o'clock that night, and learned that the enemy had left there at 8 o'clock in the morning for Brookhaven, and that Colonel Adams had camped the previous night within 3 or 4 miles of the enemy, but had gone that morning toward Fayette, believing that the enemy intended to go to Natchez.

I fed my horses and rested my men for two hours, and started for Brookhaven, sending a courier to Colonel Adams, advising him of my design to follow the enemy, and advising him to shape his march so as to join me near Liberty.

About 9 a. m. on the morning of the 30th, on my way to Brookhaven, I overtook Captain Love and his squadron. We reached Brookhaven at about 11 a. m.; fed, and rested three hours. I ordered Captain Love to proceed in advance to Bogue Chitto. I ordered, at Hazlehurst, Colonel Miller, who had kindly consented to go with me on the expedition, to proceed with Captain [James M.] Liddell's company, Twentieth Mississippi, to Bahala, and to report to me that night at Union Church, unless he found the enemy proceeding in the direction of the railroad, when he was to send me a dispatch at Union Church, and harass the enemy as much as possible; also to inquire for and notify any of the commands ordered to report to me, found on his line of march, to report to me at Union Church.

When I got to Brookhaven, I found Colonel Miller and Captain Liddell; they had gotten in the neighborhood of Brookhaven, and had found out that the enemy had left Brookhaven the previous evening, and had camped for the night, at a distance of 6 miles from Brookhaven, in the direction of Bogue Chitto; but had gone to Bogue Chitto that morning, Wednesday, April 30. After I had ordered Captain Love, as my advance, to proceed to Bogue Chitto, I received information that the enemy had committed his depredations there in the forenoon, and had gone to Summit, to do the same thing, that evening. After feeding, and resting three hours, I started for Summit, hoping to be able to find the enemy encamped there or in the vicinity, and determined to make a night attack. I sent a courier to Bogue Chitto, ordering Captain Love to join me near Summit, and proceeded to that place. Within 3 miles of Summit, Captain Love rejoined me, having pursued the enemy closely to that place, capturing 3 prisoners.

All preliminaries were made for a night attack and surprise. At 3 o'clock in the morning, Thursday, May 1, we entered Summit, and learned that the enemy had left about sunset on the previous evening, marching on the road to Magnolia, which, running east of the railroad about 5 miles, thence curving eastward, crosses the railroad, and at a distance of a mile curves westward and recrosses the railroad, continuing on the west side of the railroad to Magnolia.

I could find no one in Summit who could tell me anything more than that the enemy had left the previous evening on the road to Magnolia, saying he intended to go to that place; thence to Osyka, Camp Moore, &c. The commanding officer had been heard to ask a negro guide if he knew the way to Magnolia, and, upon an affirmative answer, had ordered him to take the lead.

The large tannery, the hospital and stores located at Magnolia, all together made up a state of fact which pointed to the conclusion that he was then on his way to that place. I learned that there was a plantation on the road to Magnolia, running east of the railroad, near where it intersected the railroad the first time, at which supplies for men and horses could be had. I hoped to be able by taking a road east of the railroad to get in his front, and form an ambuscade. I immediately resumed the march, and by sunrise formed line of battle, with men dismounted, under cover of a thick undergrowth of timber, on the side of the curvature of the road, formed by its crossing to the east and recrossing to the west side of the railroad leading from Summit to Magnolia. I immediately sent out a scout west of the railroad to ascertain

the position of the enemy. He returned about 9 o'clock, informing me that the enemy had marched from Summit the previous evening on the road to Liberty and camped about 6 miles from Summit. My men and horses had marched all night, and were wearied and hungry. I remained three hours to feed and rest, when I marched for Magnolia, hoping to be able by another night march to overtake and attack the enemy at or near Osyka.

About 10 o'clock, I received a courier from Colonel Adams, who informed me that the colonel had camped the previous night about 10 miles distant, in the direction of Liberty. I sent the courier back to inform the colonel that I should follow down the railroad, and would unite with him at Magnolia or any other place lower down to attack the enemy. This courier also informed me that the enemy had turned from the road to Liberty on the road to Osyka. I resumed the march to Osyka via Magnolia. Here I learned from Colonel [J. H.] Wingfield, who had just returned from a scout near the enemy, that at Walls Bridge, on the Osyka and Liberty road, across the Tickfaw, Major De Baun, with a detachment of 100 men of Colonel [J. H.] Wingfield's battalion of cavalry, had met the enemy, disputed his passage, killing 2 and wounding 14, including Lieutenant-Colonel Blackburn, of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry, but, when about to be flanked on both sides, had retired from the field, in the face of overwhelming numbers, with a loss of none killed or wounded, but probably with a loss of about 26 taken prisoners. Drs. Clark and Hernford and Colonel Wingfield gave all information desired with great zeal, the last tendering his services with a company of about 20 citizen scouts, suddenly raised to meet the advance of the foe. I resumed the march to Osyka, which I reached about 10 o'clock at night. The enemy had not approached Osyka nearer than Walls Bridge, but had gone on the road to Greensburg. Here Colonel Wingfield reported a detachment of 100 of his battalion (the Ninth Louisana), under Major [J.] De Baun, the same who had fought the enemy at 12 m. of that day at Walls Bridge; also Captain [G.] Herren, commanding a detachment of 50 men of the First Regiment Mississippi Cavalry; also Captain [T. C.] Rhodes, commandant of post at Osyka, reported 30 men. The captain had been doing all in his power to protect his post by a judicious disposition of the small force at his command, but was anxious to take a part in the pursuit of the enemy. The safety of Osyka is indebted to him for a ruse practiced upon the enemy. He sent his second lieutenant, W. S. Wren, to Summit, while the enemy was there, to cause it to be reported that he had two regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and a battery of artillery at Osyka.

I fed my horses, and rested my men three hours, when, with a force of about 470 men, I resumed the march to Greensburg. I did not expect to get in the advance of the enemy, but a dispatch had been shown me which stated that Colonel Adams had sent Lieut. W. S. Wren to burn Williams' Bridge, across the Amite River, where it was believed the enemy would attempt to cross; also stating that he would proceed to cut off the enemy about that place. My duty was evidently to follow the enemy and press him in the rear. I also received information that Colonel Miles, with his Legion, was on my right, following the enemy with artillery. Colonel Adams had artillery likewise, as I was informed.

I reached Greensburg at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 2d of May, where I learned that the enemy at great speed had passed the previous evening at about sunset, and had crossed the Amite River at Williams' Bridge, which had not been destroyed. I sent a scout on his track, from whom I learned that the enemy had crossed at Williams' Bridge about

midnight on the night of the 1st May, and had stopped about day to feed and rest at Sandy Creek, 15 miles beyond the Amite, and had gone on the road to Baton Rouge.

From the best information I could get, the enemy's strength consisted of the Sixth and Seventh Illinois Regiments of Cavalry, the pride and boast of the United States Army, numbering in all about 1,100 picked men, well armed and mounted. It was not his desire to fight. He wanted to make observations, destroy railroads and telegraphic communications. It is said he pressed horses, the best he could find, to mount his men when a horse was jaded. He also captured mules and horses, negroes, forage, subsistence, and stole money and jewelry from the people in his course. He has made a most successful raid through the length of the State of Mississippi and a part of Louisiana, one which will exhilarate for a short time the fainting spirits of the Northern war party.

We may expect a repetition of this raid on a smaller and a similar scale. We had forces enough to have captured and destroyed him, but his movements were so rapid and uncertain of aim that we could not concentrate our scattered forces or put them in concert of action. You had assigned to me men enough to have whipped him, but they were so scattered that I could not find half of them until the enemy had entered his own lines. While I had to pursue him, I could not do more than send out couriers to find the commands ordered to report to me. I followed him two days and nights with only 170 men, one day and two nights with 270 men, and one day and night with 470 men.

While we failed to capture or destroy the enemy, the movements on our side saved the railroad, telegraph, and Government property from Summit to Ponchatoula, the southern extremity of our lines, and drove him from the country with a loss on his part, by all his casualties, of about 70 men. Having done the best possible for me, with the means at my command, under the Special Orders, No. —, which you did me the honor to make, I beg leave to submit the above report, not, however, without saying that the soldierly qualities of Major [W. A.] Rorer, his officers and men, never complaining, always ready for duty, and anxious to meet and punish the foe, won my admiration.

R. V. RICHARDSON,
Colonel, Commanding Cavalry, &c.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON,
Comdg. Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana.

BROOKHAVEN, *May* 5, 1863.

Lieut. C. M. Stewart will deliver this report at headquarters, Jackson, Miss., and report to me at Bahala.

R. V. RICHARDSON,
Colonel, Commanding Cavalry.

No. 22.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army.

COLUMBUS, *April* 20, 1863.

The following telegrams just received:

OKOLONA, *April* 20, 1863.

I have just learned from our scouts and also from the provost-marshal of this place, just returned from scout, that the enemy passed down the road leading to Houston

to-day, and will probably reach that place to-night. Colonel [C. R.] Barteau is in their rear, in pursuit of them. We will await orders here. Enemy reported to be 6,000 strong.

J. CUNNINGHAM,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. R. M. HOOE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

OKOLONA, *April* 21, 1863.

Reliable scout reports enemy about 2,000 strong, with five mounted howitzers, on Houston road, leaving Okolona to the left. Negroes report hearing them say they were going to the Southern road or Grenada.

F. INGATE.

Capt. R. M. HOOE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

—

COLUMBUS, *April* 20, 1863.

Just returned from Verona and Chesterville. Enemy now reported 3,000 strong.

Mounted infantry, with six guns, at Pontotoc Saturday night, advancing. My troops concentrating before him. None to send to Colonel [P. D.] Roddey.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLUMBUS, *April* 20, 1863.

The enemy (some 2,000 mounted men, with four field guns) were at Pontotoc last night. My cavalry, with three guns, are moving against him.

I reported this at 2 p. m. Everything rendered possible by my limited resources will be done.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLUMBUS, MISS., *April* 20, 1863.

[James M.] Burton reports that some 8,000 or 10,000 enemy's troops were at Burnsville on Thursday night with artillery, wagon train, and pontoon bridges, who stated that they would cross the Tennessee River at Eastport to join Rosecrans. There is evidently some formidable movement in that direction.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

COLUMBUS, *April* 21, 1863.

Just received from Okolona:

We are now (1 o'clock) 15 miles from Sparta, on the Houston and West Point road. I will go to Sparta to-night, where I learn the enemy are. Cannonading heard in that direction about 12 o'clock.

J. CUNNINGHAM,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLUMBUS, *April* 22, 1863.

The enemy is reported 2½ miles northwest of Palo Alto with his main body. Colonel [C. R.] Barteau had skirmish with him yesterday evening near Calvert's plantation, and fell back to the junction of the Houston and Greenville roads, where he now is. Can you send troops from Grenada to effect a diversion?

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLUMBUS, *April* 23, 1863.

Enemy's probable strength, 2,000. Reported falling back before our cavalry.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLUMBUS, *April* 25, 1863.

Colonel [C. R.] Barteau reports the enemy completely routed at Birmingham yesterday evening. The destruction of a bridge prevented pursuit.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLUMBUS, *April* 26, 1863.

Captain [F.] Ingate reports reliable information has just been received that the enemy were passing Houston this morning, going toward Pontotoc. I suppose that this may be the force reported at Bankston's Mills. The reported advance on Aberdeen was unfounded.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

COLUMBUS, *April* 29, 1863.

The enemy in his recent raid came south from the Fifth District, entering the first at Pontotoc, and that force confronting me has been routed and driven back by my troops.

If your telegrams to me on that subject imply censure, I request a more explicit written statement.

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

No. 23.

Report of Col. John M. Simonton, First Mississippi Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS TROOPS,
Ponchatoula, Miss., April 30, 1863—10 p. m.

MAJOR: Enemy reported at Summit, on railroad, advancing on Osyka.

I leave this place at 12 o'clock, or about then, for that point, with battery of artillery, 60 cavalry, and 260 infantry. My object is to protect Government property at Osyka, if possible.

All quiet in my front. Our scouts well advanced. I make this move without orders, but could not communicate with you. Hope the move will be approved by the general commanding. I leave most of my cavalry force behind, with orders to dispatch me if any move is attempted by the enemy.

Enemy above reported by Captain [Thomas C.] Rhodes, commanding post at Osyka, to be about 1,500 strong. I will save them if possible.

Don't know what has become of our cavalry above reported gone west.

I am, major, very respectfully, &c.,

JNO. M. SIMONTON,
Colonel, Commanding.

Maj. T. F. WILLSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Port Hudson.

No. 24.

Report of Brig. Gen. Lloyd Tilghman, C. S. Army.

CANTON, *April* 24, 1863.

Messenger from Carthage again reports a regiment of cavalry approaching that place.

I have started Fifty-fourth Alabama and section of artillery, with orders to move rapidly. I have Eighth Kentucky, about 100 strong, and a section.

Might effect something if I had more force.

Please send it if practicable. I need a few cavalry.

LLOYD TILGHMAN,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

APRIL 18–24, 1863.—Expedition from Memphis, Tenn., to the Coldwater, Miss., including action (18th) at Hernando, and skirmish (19th) at Perry's Ferry.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, U. S. Army.
No. 3.—Col. George E. Bryant, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry.
No. 4.—Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding First District.
No. 5.—Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding Fifth District.

No. 1.

*Reports of Maj. Gen. Stephen A. Hurlbut, U. S. Army, commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.**

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Memphis, Tenn., April 21, 1863.

SIR: I send you last dispatch from Corinth, also written reports from Colonel Bryant, Twelfth Wisconsin, as to movement on Coldwater.

The river at Coldwater Station proved impassable. Our troops fell back to Hernando. I have just had verbal report from Bryant. Major Hayes, Fifth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, has died of his wound. His conduct was most gallant. With 40 men he captured 65 prisoners. We have 80 in all. Fearing that Chalmers might be re-enforced from Greenwood, I have sent this morning the Fourteenth and Forty-sixth Illinois and one battery, with orders, if they hear Smith's guns, to force a passage, by bridging or otherwise, and join him.

I have just received a dispatch from La Grange that a woman just in from Holly Springs reports heavy cannonading south of Holly Springs on yesterday. If this is so, Smith has run across some other band or force, for Chalmers has not moved yet, I think, from Coldwater.

Smith has 1,500 good infantry and a good battery, and although I am somewhat anxious about his not appearing in their rear at or about Senatobia before our men left Coldwater on Monday noon, I think he is strong enough to work his way back or forward against anything but a movement in force from below, of which I have no intelligence.

Dodge is, I am satisfied, careful as well as brave, and will hold the line of Bear Creek as long as necessary.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS FOURTH DIVISION,
Near Memphis, April 21, 1863—1 a. m.

[General STEPHEN A. HURLBUT:]

GENERAL: Inclosed† I send you dispatches just received from Colonel Bryant. You will notice that he had quite an animated time of it, finding the rebels in force intrenched on the Coldwater, which he could not cross for reasons stated. Major Hayes severely, supposed mortally, wounded; two officers of the Thirty-third Wisconsin dead. Our force

* See also Grierson's raid, &c., p. 519. † See p. 556.

fell back on the Horn Lake road, about 18 miles from Memphis, where they are now encamped. They are encumbered with 57 privates and 7 commissioned officers taken prisoners. If they remain or return, they will want assistance from here in the shape of ambulances and artillery horses, besides a sufficient force of cavalry to relieve Major Hayes' command, which is played out.

What has become of General Smith?

Awaiting your orders, I am, general, your obedient servant,

J. G. LAUMAN,
Brigadier-General.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Memphis, Tenn., April 25, 1863.

The expedition against Chalmers suffered the misfortune of most combined movements. General Smith did not get into the rear in time, and from high water in Coldwater River, and the slowness and extreme caution of Colonel Bryant, of the Twelfth Wisconsin, who led the force from here, that part of the expedition did not force the passage of the river. As Smith came up on Wednesday, Chalmers broke into small squads and ran off to Panola, burning all bridges.

I have had nothing from Dodge for three days, but his base is firm at Eastport, on the line of Bear Creek.

I sent you copy of letter from Grierson, near Pontotoc. I have not heard from his main column since.

The Second Iowa Cavalry has burned Okolona, destroyed the road and barracks; also large amounts of provisions, &c., at Tupelo, either by themselves, or by the enemy, in fear of them. This is reported by two of that regiment, who were cut off and came into Corinth. The country cavalry is hanging around them, but I think they will work their way in.

There is nothing else here of news. As soon as I get news from any of these expeditions, I will forward it.

Your obedient servant,

S. A. HURLBUT,
Major-General.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. William Sooy Smith, U. S. Army.

COLLIERVILLE, *April* 23, 1863.

I have just arrived here, having marched by way of Holly Springs, Wyatt's, Cole's Cross-Roads, Sardis, Senatobia, Coldwater, and Byhalia. Chalmers divided up his force and ran around me, and escaped by way of Buck Snort and Chulahoma. I have lost perhaps half a dozen stragglers, captured; have captured 13 Confederate soldiers, and have brought out about 255 horses and mules. Will report as soon as possible by letter.

WM. SOOY SMITH,
Brigadier-General, Commanding First Division.

Major-General HURLBUT,
Commanding Sixteenth Army Corps.

No. 3.

Reports of Col. George E. Bryant, Twelfth Wisconsin Infantry.

JOHNSON'S FARM, EIGHTEEN MILES FROM MEMPHIS,
April 20, 1863.

CAPTAIN: We commenced skirmishing with the enemy on Saturday, 2 miles across Nonconnah, and pushed him to Hernando. He had a camp 18 miles out of Memphis. They removed their tents through Hernando on Saturday morning. After we got into camp at Hernando, at sundown, 600 rebels attacked us. We went out, met, and routed them, and captured 63 privates and 7 commissioned officers; killed and wounded about 20 of them. I sent out the ambulance to pick up their wounded, and they fired on the flag. The next morning we reached Coldwater River at 8 a. m., skirmishing with the enemy 8 miles up the river. We fought them from 8 a. m. till 4 p. m., but were unable to cross the ferry, the boats of which the rebels shot loose.

Their force was infantry, Chalmers having been re-enforced by two regiments on Thursday.

Major Hayes was badly, and I fear mortally, wounded about 9 a. m. He was so weak he could tell me nothing. I posted the artillery to the front, with the Forty-first and Thirty-third and three companies of the Twelfth Wisconsin, leaving the balance of the Twelfth to hold the hill. The enemy was fully equal to us, intrenched. I sent cavalry up the river above the railroad, but they could find no place to cross. At 4 p. m. they commenced shelling us from the hill beyond, though, of course, they did not have our range. After throwing a few shells, they apparently withdrew. At this time the cavalry on my right commenced to skirmish, and sent me word they had met the enemy's advance. Previous to this I had been told they were crossing below. I immediately took the battery train and seven companies of the Twelfth Wisconsin on the hill in rear, and soon moved the whole force back, and filed to the right of the Horn Lake road. Here I met Major Eastman. On this road I camped, and this morning moved into Hernando. I sent cavalry back to the river, and they found the enemy still there. I also sent cavalry toward the east. Though meeting and driving the enemy, they found no place to cross, and could hear nothing of Smith's guns; 500 or 600 rebels have been continually in our rear; attacked and captured a pressed ambulance, with Lieutenant Major, which I recaptured. On consultation with the commanding officers, it was decided to fall back here and communicate with you. We have 2 officers of the Thirty-third Wisconsin dead, Major Hayes badly wounded, and some 13 others dead and wounded. The rebels have torn up the bridges behind us, on Hernando road, compelling us to come this way. Several of the battery horses are dead, and they are down to four to a gun, and they played out. I wish I could hear by daylight. I dislike to come back; still, with the prisoners, rations running out, and ammunition getting a little scarce, I ask for instructions. If we go back, we shall want ambulances, ammunition, and bread. What has become of Smith? Men never fought better. I do hope I may hear by daylight. It is best to send not less than 50 men with this.

GEORGE E. BRYANT,
Colonel.

Capt. W. H. F. RANDALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. TWELFTH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Memphis, Tenn., April 25, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, on the morning of the 18th instant, in pursuance to orders from General Lauman, I moved from Memphis, on the Hernando road, with the Twelfth and Thirty-third Wisconsin, Forty-first Illinois Volunteers, and the Fifteenth Ohio Battery. At the Nonconnah, Major Hayes, with 265 men, of the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, reported to me. Two miles south of Nonconnah he met a picket of 10 men of the enemy, and captured 5 of them. Seven miles north of Hernando, the camp of Colonel [W. C.] Falkner was broken up. A large amount of corn, an ambulance wagon and 4 horses and harness, loaded with ham, were captured here, belonging to the C. S. Army.

The column reached Hernando, Miss., 25 miles south of Memphis, at 6 p. m. [G. L.] Blythe, with 300 men, hovered on my rear and flanks all day, twice firing on the flankers thrown out from the column. At 6.30 p. m. the pickets on the south of the town were attacked by Colonel [W. C.] Falkner, with from 600 to 700 men on foot. I immediately sent Major Hayes, with cavalry, to meet them, and got my forces in position for battle. After a sharp engagement of thirty minutes, and killing and wounding 30 of the enemy, the enemy fell back, leaving in our hands 72 prisoners, including 7 commissioned officers. Among the badly wounded were two commissioned officers. I immediately sent the surgeons of the command with their ambulances and infirmary corps to look after the enemy's dead and wounded, but they were fired upon, and returned with only 4 of the wounded. In this skirmish we had 2 men slightly wounded. It was too dark, and the men and horses too much used up, to pursue. We captured seventy stand of arms and accouterments.

The command was under arms at 3 a. m. Sunday morning, and at sunrise started for the Coldwater. Met the enemy's pickets 2 miles south of Hernando. The column moved swiftly on. When 4 miles out, our rear was attacked by Blythe. I sent Companies B and K, of the Twelfth Wisconsin, with 18 cavalrymen, to repel them, and they soon scattered them. About the same time I received a message from Major Hayes that he had reached Perry's Ferry and driven the enemy across; that he was badly wounded, and the men getting out of ammunition. I immediately put the battery (Fifteenth Ohio, Captain Spear), the two leading regiments, the Thirty-third Wisconsin, Colonel Moore, and the Forty-first Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Nale, upon a very swift double-quick, which, through mud ankle-deep, they kept up for 4 miles. Lieutenant-Colonel Poole, with the Twelfth Wisconsin, in rear of the train with prisoners, was instructed to move steadily on, with flankers thrown out on either side, and bring forward all the men who might fall out from fatigue, that might be caused by our rapid advance. Arriving at the river, found the cavalry dismounted and holding the ferry. Captain Spear immediately got two pieces in position, and shelled the thicket on the other side. Our cavalry fell back to their ammunition wagon, under orders to be ready to cross. Falkner's men retired from our range; the firing ceased, and Lieutenant Picquet, of the Thirty-second Illinois Volunteers, provost-marshal, was just trying to get across the river to the boat tied on the other side, when the rebels returned, re-enforced by two regiments of mounted infantry, dismounted (First Missouri, and Colonel [R.] McCulloch's Arkansas [Missouri] regiment).

In the mean time the Thirty-third Wisconsin Volunteers had formed in the swamp on the right of the road, and the Forty-first Illinois, with Companies C, H, and E, of the Twelfth Wisconsin, on the left of the

road, close by the river bank. The enemy advanced nearly to the brink of the river, where, under cover of felled trees and a gully, they poured in a perfect shower of balls. The brave Captain Spear, as they advanced down the road within 40 yards, commanded, "Cannoneers to your guns; canister." The men worked with a will, and it was only when he found that their sharpshooters, under cover of large cypress logs, were picking off his men and horses, that he fell back. On our side was a thick, wooded swamp, which, from the last night's rain, was full of water. The two regiments and three companies on either side remained in their positions from 9 a. m. till 5 p. m., lying flat on the ground, and keeping their sharpshooters, five companies from a regiment, close to the bank, under cover of trees. A continuous fire was kept up from both sides all day. Seven companies of the Twelfth Wisconsin guarded the prisoners and the hill, in our rear. I posted the cavalry up and down the river, to find another crossing. I sent cavalry up the river at 3 p. m., who crossed the railroad at the burned bridge, but could hear nothing of General Smith.

At 4 p. m. the enemy were again re-enforced, and commenced shelling us from the hill opposite, to which we replied with our artillery, but we could get no range on them. The ground was so watery that we could only get position for one gun. At 4.30 p. m. I moved the artillery train and the Twelfth Wisconsin to a strong position on the hill.

At 5 p. m. my cavalry sent word they had met the enemy's pickets on our right. I immediately fell back 2 miles, and moved about 3 miles to the west on the Horn Lake road, to prevent their flanking me. I am now satisfied that there was nothing there except Blythe's command. Here Major Eastman, with 100 men of the Second Wisconsin Cavalry, reported to me. Here we encamped for the night. During the night there was sharp picket firing, and we were in line of battle. One man of the Thirty-third Wisconsin was wounded.

The next morning, Monday, I moved up to Hernando, and sent my cavalry forward again to Perry's Ferry, where they found the enemy still in position, with their pickets (which they drove in) thrown out toward Hernando. I also sent the cavalry east toward Holly Springs, to the river, with instructions to listen for Smith's guns. At 3 o'clock I fell back to Johnson's farm, on the Horn Lake road, and sent 30 cavalry to Memphis with dispatches for you.

At 8 o'clock Tuesday morning I fell back 6 miles to the junction of the Hernando and Horn Lake roads. I here received notice of re-enforcements, and sent the ambulances with dead and wounded to meet those you had sent out. While this was being done, the enemy sent in a flag of truce, which did not detain us, as we were stopped for dinner. I marched till dark, when we encamped.

The next morning, Wednesday, we moved through Hernando, and crossed my cavalry at both the Holly Springs road and Perry's Ferry. I was convinced that General Smith could not be below, from the fact that General Chalmers spent Monday night 2 miles south of Hernando, and was all day Tuesday with his wife at Hernando.

Thursday I returned to Horn Lake Creek, and Friday to camp at Memphis. The expedition captured 80 prisoners, 200 horses and mules (100 of them good cavalry horses), 70 stand of arms, 12,000 pounds of bacon, 10,000 pounds of which were destroyed; also a quantity of dry-goods, medicine, &c.

The Forty-first Illinois lost 1 man killed and 1 wounded. The Thirty-third Wisconsin lost 2 commissioned officers killed and 3 men wounded. The Twelfth Wisconsin had 2 men wounded and 1 missing. The Fif-

teenth Ohio Battery lost 1 man killed and 2 wounded. The Fifth Ohio Cavalry lost Major Hayes, killed, and Lieutenant [Robert] Major and 3 men, wounded.

The conduct of all, both officers and men, was excellent. I know of no one who failed to do his whole duty. Under a very hot fire of sharpshooters, who aimed principally at officers and mounted men, during the fight of Sunday, the different corps were put in position with the steadiness and good order of veterans. The Fifteenth Ohio Battery, Capt. Edward Spear, was splendidly handled, under a withering fire, at not over 50 yards. I cannot refrain from mentioning a gallant act of Private Clayton W. Gonsanley. Private John Maddox was struck down in the act of ramming a shell home. Gonsanley, who was sponging, immediately and without orders sprang across the gun, seized the rammer, sent home the shell, and continued so to work until ordered away, only stopping long enough to move Maddox from under the wheels of the gun. Captain Spear showed daring, skill, and ability, and was well seconded by Lieutenant Burdick and all the men.

The cavalry did fine service, being constantly on the move, and especially in the skirmishes at Hernando on Saturday evening and Sunday morning at Perry's Ferry, under the gallant lead of Major Hayes, of the Fifth Ohio. This fine officer was struck through the pelvis and thigh by a Minie ball at about 8.30 a. m. on April 19, at the ferry, and died in an ambulance on Tuesday, April 21, at about noon. All was done for him that was possible; but the wound was of such a nature that anything but smoothing his passage to the grave was useless. He is entitled to all the praise that an able, dashing, and brave officer can receive from his companions. His loss was a severe one to the service. All the officers and soldiers of the cavalry did their duty bravely and promptly. In the infantry steadiness and coolness, hard and veteran-like, were the characteristics. Two officers of the Thirty-third Wisconsin, Capt. Joseph F. Lindsley, Company H, and Lieut. Henry S. Swift, commanding Company E, were killed at the ferry while at their posts of duty. Their fellows bear testimony to the fact that they were two of the best officers in the regiment. To praise the living, as they deserve, by special notice, would be to name and praise the whole.

I am under many obligations to Lieutenant Picquet, of the Thirty-second Illinois Volunteers; Lieutenant Duncan, of the Fifty-third Indiana, and Lieutenant Harris, of the Twenty-eighth Illinois Regiment, Colonel Johnson's aides, who accompanied me; also to my acting adjutant, Lieut. J. K. Proudfit, and Lieutenant [William J.] Norton, of the Twelfth Wisconsin. They repeatedly made themselves the marks of the enemy's sharpshooters in carrying orders to the command in the swamp. I also thank Colonel Dornblaser and his command, Lieutenant-Colonel Heath, Major Eastman, and Major Wilson, with their commands, who re-enforced my command. They did everything in their power to ease the labors of my tired and foot-sore soldiers, and ably and cheerfully carried out all orders and commands after they joined us.

The expedition is in camp. With the exception of 1 man missing and those struck by bullets, it is as intact as when put under my care. In killed and wounded I know the enemy has suffered more than we have, and the captures, at least, are clear profit.

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE E. BRYANT,
Colonel Twelfth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

Capt. W. H. F. RANDALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 4.

Report of Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding First District.

OKOLONA, MISS., *May* 13, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to state, for the information of the lieutenant-general commanding, that being informed by Brigadier-General [S. A. M.] Wood, from Florence, Ala., that a raid of the enemy was about to be made from Corinth up the valley of the Tennessee River, and requested to harass his movements in every possible way, I, on the 7th ultimo, gave orders for a portion of my troops to be in readiness to march into the Bear Creek country, on the line of the enemy's movement. Information received soon afterward induced the belief that the enemy's force at Corinth and neighboring stations was being greatly reduced, and, to be able to strike him the more effectually upon his base of operations, should opportunity invite, only a scouting party was sent to Bear Creek, and two sections (four guns) of [J. A.] Owens' light battery was ordered from Columbus to Aberdeen on the 13th, and sent thence with the Second Alabama Cavalry Regiment to Town Creek, 9 miles east of Okolona. Taking the field at the same time, and proceeding to Verona, I soon ascertained that a large force of the enemy was going through Corinth in the direction of Northern Alabama without reducing his strength at Corinth, and that a considerable force was also accumulating at La Grange and other places west of Corinth. Believing it my special duty to protect, so far as I could, the rich country along the line of the Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, and the road itself, I deemed it unsafe to move so far to the north and east as would have been necessary to enable me to harass the enemy on his march toward Northern Alabama, and contented myself by requesting General Gholson to send 100 of the best men from his State troops to break up the Memphis and Cincinnati Railroad between Grand Junction and Corinth.

Having visited all my troops, as well as the State troops, at Chesterville, established lines of communication, and put everything in the best possible state of readiness for whatever might occur, I returned toward Columbus; but when within 14 miles of that place, on the 20th, was informed that a force of the enemy, rated at from fifteen hundred to as many thousand men, with artillery, was at Pontotoc. The most active measures were taken to resist his progress by the concentration of all my mounted troops to the west of the railroad. Capt. L. D. Sandidge, assistant adjutant and inspector general, with two guns upon platform cars, and Colonel [Thomas A.] Burgin, with a part of the State troops at Columbus, were sent to reconnoiter the road and to protect the railroad bridges across the Tibbee and Noxubee, and the public stores at Macon; and Brigadier-General [John V.] Harris was instructed to order all the militia at and in the vicinity of Macon to unite with them, and to invite the citizens generally along the railroad line to organize for the defense of the towns and railroad bridges. The rapid progress of the enemy from Pontotoc by way of Houston led me to suppose that the first and principal purpose was to destroy our railroad communication by burning the bridges over the Tibbee and Noxubee, and it was not until he had been thwarted in this, and was retreating northward after the attack upon him at Palo Alto, did I learn that whilst we were confronting the enemy at one point, another column, marching to the westward, had proceeded to the Southern Railroad, between Meridian and Jackson.

This information was obtained by me at West Point, about 5 p. m.

the 24th. At 6 p. m. a dispatch was received from Major [W. A.] Hewlett, then at Aberdeen, that 1,500 of the enemy's forces were between Okolona and Aberdeen, threatening an immediate attack upon the latter place.

Colonel [J. W.] Rogers, with the Ninth Arkansas Infantry, was sent to Prairie Station, 8 miles from Aberdeen, with instructions to make a forced march that night for its relief. This report, though so positively given, was without foundation, producing, however, much disquietude for a time, as did the report received, at 8 p. m. on the 25th, from Lieut. J. P. Shaw, at Macon, that, from—

reliable source, Bankston Factory was burned by a large force of Federals that morning, said to be 20,000 infantry and 6,000 cavalry, making their way to Southern road, via Louisville and Kosciusko.

And which on investigation proved equally false.

The retreat of the enemy from Palo Alto, the pursuit and attack upon him at Birmingham, with other matters of interest, is so clearly stated in the report of Lieutenant-Colonel [C. R.] Barteau, herewith sent,* that I specially commend it to your attention. Instructed by the lieutenant-general that it would be inexcusable to allow the enemy to escape this way from the Southern Railroad, scouting parties were sent in that direction, and orders given, on the 25th, stationing all my mounted troops so as to intercept him, but his movement to another quarter relieving us from the expected return this way, my command was ordered to positions guarding the country against enemy on the north, at which they had not arrived when another raid of the enemy approached from the direction of New Albany.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 5.

Reports of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding Fifth District.

COLDWATER BRIDGE, *April* 18, 1863—8 p. m.

Enemy again left Hernando. Their statement of casualties yesterday—1 major, 1 captain, 1 lieutenant, and 17 privates killed; between 40 and 50 wounded.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

COLDWATER DEPOT, *April* 18, 1863,
VIA SENATOBIA, [*April*] 19.

Enemy reported rebuilding railroad bridge over Nonconnah, on Memphis and Tennessee Railroad, and advanced within 4 miles of Hernando

* See Grierson's raid, Barteau's report, p. 533.

to-day. Reported advance on Holly Springs to-day, and repairing railroad as they advance. I am concentrating my force here. This is the provision region. Can you give me more cavalry? [J. G.] Stocks' regiment and [T. N.] Waul's cavalry did not come with McCulloch.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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COLDWATER, *April* 19, 1863.

Enemy in Hernando last night—four regiments of infantry, six pieces of artillery, and 800 cavalry. In the skirmish yesterday, Col. W. C. Falkner lost about 40 men killed; wounded and prisoners not definitely known. Major [G. L.] Blythe on enemy's rear with seven small companies. [Robert] McCulloch not here yet.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLDWATER, VIA SENATOBIA, *April* 19, 1863—11 a. m.

Heavy skirmishing since 7 o'clock. Enemy have not yet succeeded in crossing Coldwater. His artillery commands the ferry. I am looking every moment for one piece of artillery. If it comes in time, I will hold this place. The enemy has advantage in position—bluff bank on north side, bottom on this side. Major [Robert A.] McCulloch, with skirmishers, has just charged the ferry, and driven back the artillery and cut the ferry-boat loose.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

COLDWATER, VIA SENATOBIA, *April* 19, 1863.

The enemy is in retreat and we are pursuing. Our loss, 1 killed and 6 wounded. Enemy's loss not known further than 1 dead left at the ferry. The odds were very heavy, and my men behaved well, though many were for the first time under artillery fire.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PANOLA, *April* 19, 1863.

The enemy have crossed Coldwater, and still advancing. Send me 20,000 musket caps and 20,000 sporting caps with all dispatch.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

[Indorsement.]

General Chalmers' officer will leave for his post to-morrow. These above will be forwarded by him. He has to wait till to-morrow evening for harness. If necessary, order an officer at my disposal to send these caps in morning.

GEORGE UPSHUR MAYO.

BRIDGE OVER COLDWATER, ON HOLLY SPRINGS ROAD,
Via Senatobia, April 20, 1863.

Enemy re-enforced and returned to Hernando. Unless I get help, I must fall back to Panola, and that gives up the provision region. My effective force is only 650, and about 150 more in Panola. Can you send Waul's cavalry and a battery to Panola, and Stocks' to Abbeville?

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PANOLA, *April* 22, 1863.

Enemy advanced from Memphis again yesterday, and about the same time I heard of the advance from below. I destroyed the bridge and ferry over Coldwater, and fell back on the flank of the same force, intending to attack them to-day, when I discovered that I had but four rounds of long-range ammunition. I fell back, and the enemy (2,000 strong) passed on east, after plundering the country of horses and mules.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PANOLA, *April* 23, 1863.

Enemy, after passing east through [toward] Buck Snort, turned back, and came within 6 miles of me last night. Force estimated at 2,000, composed of cavalry and infantry, mounted on stolen mules and horses. Another force, reported same size, from Memphis, at Coldwater Depot. I left camp at 12 o'clock last night, and arrived here at 10 o'clock. Believe I can hold this place against their force, and feel confident, if [Leonidas] Willis and Stocks arrive in time.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PANOLA, MISS., *April* 23, 1863.

Force at Coldwater Depot has not advanced; force at Buck Snort gone east. I can strike the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, or I can get my rifled gun to Austin and destroy transports. Which would you prefer?

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON,
Jackson, Miss.

[Answer.]

First strike the railroad, if you are sure you can seriously incommode or injure them.

J. C. P. [PEMBERTON],
Lieutenant-General.

OXFORD, *April* 25, 1863.

Advance guard arrived. Column 10 miles from here. Delayed by rain, darkness, and having to go off the road for forage. Will camp here to-night. Any news from the enemy?

JAMES. R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

APRIL 19, 1863.—Skirmish at Trenton, Tenn.

Report of Col. John K. Mizner, Third Michigan Cavalry, Chief of Cavalry, District of Jackson.

JACKSON, TENN., *April* 21, 1863.

CAPTAIN: Capt. T. V. Quackenbush, with 23 men of the Third Michigan Cavalry, came upon a party of rebels, 25 in number, at Trenton, on Sunday morning (19th), routing them, and capturing 15 out of the 25. He was attacked in return by a party of 63, under Captains Blackmore, Sparks, and Thomas, all of whom he successfully repulsed, and drove them from the town, holding the prisoners captured, only 1 escaping.

Additional cavalry has been sent to re-enforce Captain Quackenbush.

Very respectfully,

J. K. MIZNER,
Colonel and Chief of Cavalry.

Capt. E. D. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

APRIL 22, 1863.—Passage of the Vicksburg and Warrenton batteries by transports.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Adjt. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, U. S. Army.
No. 2.—Col. William S. Oliver, Seventh Missouri Infantry, commanding steamer Tigress.
No. 3.—Capt. Leander B. Fisk, Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, commanding steamer Anglo-Saxon.
No. 4.—Capt. George W. Kennard, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, commanding steamer Horizon.
No. 5.—Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith, C. S. Army.
No. 6.—Col. A. Jackson, jr., C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Adjt. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas, U. S. Army.

YOUNG'S POINT, LA., *April* 23, 1863,
VIA MEMPHIS, TENN., *April* 25—1.30 p. m.

Last night six steamers and twelve barges attempted to run the batteries at Vicksburg, about 11 p. m., when the moon went down. The first two steamers came within range, when heavy firing commenced. The Tigress received fifteen shots—one in the stern carrying off two

planks. She rounded to at Johnson's plantation, 3½ miles below Vicksburg, grounded, and sank, breaking amidships. She is a total loss. Crew all safe. Colonel Lagow, on this steamer and in charge of all the boats, and the pilot then went on the Cheeseman. The Anglo-Saxon passed comparatively safe. The Moderator was badly cut up and had several wounded. She drifted by Warrenton batteries about 3 a. m. The Horizon passed Warrenton at daylight. The Empire City was totally disabled at Vicksburg, and was lashed, at Johnson's plantation, to the Cheeseman, both of which were seen to pass Warrenton, where the fire was heavy, shortly after daylight. The barges designed to carry troops are supposed to have all passed. One pilot was mortally wounded in the abdomen and another person in the thigh, both of whom must have died shortly after.

General Sherman took a position at Johnson's plantation, with medical officers and six large boats, to render assistance. He hailed and boarded the steamers, and the surgeons did what they could. One wounded man was landed, but it was thought best not to remove the others. Some five hundred shots were fired, and discharge of musketry was kept up along the bank of the river to pick off the men, especially the pilots, some of whom, to avoid being injured by splinters, had their pilot-houses taken down and stood exposed. The entire crews were taken from the troops, of whom about 500 volunteered, when the crews of the boats objected. Large fires were made in Vicksburg and on the point opposite, to light up the river.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant-General.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

No. 2.

Report of Col. William S. Oliver, Seventh Missouri Infantry, commanding steamer Tigress.

NEW CARTHAGE, LA., *April* 24, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following report as commander of the steamer Tigress, flag-ship of the fleet, which started to pass the batteries of Vicksburg and Warrenton on the night of April 22:

We started, as ordered, from the mouth of Yazoo River at 11.30 o'clock, the Tigress taking the lead, but had not run more than 2 or 3 miles when the steamer Empire City passed us. A few moments afterward the enemy fired their signal guns and made lights by setting fire to two houses on the Louisiana side, so that when opposite the city it was as light as day on the river, and we could see the men at their batteries and the streets in the city plainly. We arrived opposite the court-house at 12.20 o'clock. It was here we received their heaviest fire; it was most terrific, they throwing a shower of missiles of all shapes and kinds, from Minie balls to 200-pound shot and shell; and here the enemy burst one of their heaviest guns in one of the streets near the court-house while firing at us. As we passed, their fire cut the ropes and chimney guys over our heads, and shot away our extra tiller wheel, while shot after shot struck the cabin and texas, throwing splinters all around. As we heard their shots come crashing through our timbers, we

wondered how she could live a moment under the raining fire of shot and shell.

At this point we found that the barge which was made fast on the Vicksburg side was drifting us with the eddy close to the batteries. I therefore ordered Lieutenant McBride, acting mate, to cut her loose, which he did, with the aid of Corporal Flanagan, under a most terrific fire of musketry and artillery. The noble Tigress stood all well, and we thought all safe, as we had passed nearly all the batteries, when she received a very heavy shot in the stern, which knocked away three knees and two planks, making an opening of at least 4 feet in her hull, which was reported to me by Lieutenant Smith, who had charge of the men in the hold, who were stationed there to put cotton bags into such holes as might be made by their shot. The Tigress received in all thirty-five shots (as near as I could judge), fourteen of which struck her hull, the last one causing her to fill and settle fast.

The engineers set the boiler pumps at work, and I ordered the pilot to run her ashore on the Louisiana side, which we reached just in time, for she went to the bottom a few minutes after getting our line out. Not a man of my crew left his post until ordered so to do, the engineers and firemen being in water up to their knees before being relieved. I assembled my crew on the hurricane deck, and hailed the steamer J. W. Cheeseman, which came alongside.

As ordered by you, I removed my crew on board of her. The steamer Empire City also came alongside, but in a helpless condition, having her steam pipe cut. By the time I had removed my crew on board the Cheeseman, day began to break. At the request of Captain Harrison, and also of yourself, I took command of the Cheeseman, with the Empire City in tow, to run by the Warrenton batteries; but when near Warrenton, I found we could not control our boat with the other in tow, and was therefore forced to cut her loose and let her float. Sixteen shots were fired at us from the Warrenton batteries, three of which struck the boat, but doing us no material damage. We dropped out of range, and waited for the Empire City to float by, which she did without injury, we towing her into the channel from time to time, and escorting her down, arriving safely at New Carthage at 8 o'clock on the morning of the 23d, having run by the batteries at Warrenton in daylight.

I cannot speak too highly of the officers and crew of the Tigress. Not a man left his post, each trying to excel the other in doing his duty. The men remained where placed, and three times promptly extinguished the fires, which caught from the excessive heat near the fire doors.

The following are the officers and men of the Seventh Missouri Volunteer Infantry composing the volunteer crew of the steamer Tigress:

Col. Clark B. Lagow, aide to General Grant, commanding fleet.
Lieut. Col. W. S. Oliver, Seventh Missouri Infantry, commanding Tigress.
George Britton, citizen pilot.
Sergt. W. T. Followell, Company E, Seventh Missouri, second pilot.
Capt. P. D. Toomer, Company H, Seventh Missouri, chief engineer.
Lieut. A. P. Cindel, Company D, Seventh Missouri, first assistant engineer.
Sergt. Robert H. Menagh, Company K, Seventh Missouri, second assistant engineer.
Lieut. D. W. McBride, Company F, Seventh Missouri, mate.
Lieut. Henry Smith, Company E, Seventh Missouri, second mate.

Crew (Seventh Missouri Infantry).

Sergt. J. Fitzgerald, Company B.
Private John Ward, Company B.
Private Barney Brady, Company B.
Private Daniel Ryan, Company B.
Private Henry Ische, Company C.
Sergt. Michael Whealan, Company D.
Private Nathaniel Hurst, Company E.
Private Buford Mullins, Company E.

Private William Barnett, Company E.
Private Thomas O'Donnell, Company E.
Private James Kelly, Company E.
Sergt. E. L. Graham, Company F.
Sergt. Robert H. Flavell, Company F.
Private Dennis McCarty, Company F.
Private George Riffle, Company F.
Private Henry O'Neil, Company F.
Private W. E. Pickerell, Company G.
Private James P. Green, Company G.
Private John J. Fail, Company G.
Private I. N. Kimberlin, Company G.
Sergt. Joseph A. Bowman, Company H.
Corpl. Patrick Flanagan, Company H.
Private James McGuire, Company H.
Private George H. Fairbanks, Company H.
Private Eugene Sullivan, Company H.
Private Alexander D. Leal, Company H.
Corpl. Calvin Hess, Company I.
Private John Ingle, Company I.
Private Jeremiah Fitzgerald, Company I.
Private Patrick O'Neil, Company I.
Sergt. J. P. Reed, Company K.
Private Thomas Evans, Company K.
Private E. H. Cannon, Company K.

Respectfully submitted.

W. S. OLIVER,
Lieut. Col. Seventh Missouri Infantry, Comdg. Steamer Tigress.

Col. CLARK B. LAGOW,
Commanding Fleet.

ADDENDA.

QUARTERMASTER'S DEPT., TRANSPORTATION OFFICE,
HEADQUARTERS NEAR VICKSBURG,
Office on board Steamer H. Von Phul, April 22, 1863.

CAPTAIN OF STEAMER:

SIR: You will have your boat in readiness at 9 o'clock this evening, in the middle of the river, at Young's Point, ready to move at the signal given by me. I will be alongside, and give the signal in person to each boat. The line of boats will be as follows: Tigress (flagship), Empire City, Moderator, J. W. Cheeseman, Anglo-Saxon, and Horizon. You will have your crew in their proper places, with instructions to remain at their posts. This is an important movement, and I trust every officer and man will do his duty.

Col. Clark B. Lagow, aide-de-camp to General Grant, is on board the Tigress, and will take charge of the fleet under way.

Yours, respectfully,

GEO. W. GRAHAM,
Commanding Fleet,
By CHAS. C. CARROLL, JR.

No. 3.

Report of Capt. Leander B. Fisk, Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, commanding steamer Anglo-Saxon.

STEAMER ANGLO-SAXON,
New Carthage, La.

SIR: I have the honor to report, in compliance with orders, the steamer Anglo-Saxon running the Vicksburg batteries on the night of the 22d of April, 1863. After leaving the Yazoo River, we floated down until near the upper batteries; then, putting on all the steam she would allow, we passed the upper battery, receiving a shot in her bow, cutting loose the barge, which caused the boat to sheer to the Louisiana shore, and strike the bank opposite the city. We then cut the barge loose from the stern and rounded back on her, and headed down stream,

when we received a shot through the starboard engine, entirely disabling it; at the same time one through the pilot-house, knocking the pilot (Charles Evans) out of the house, stunning him considerably, when pilots J. Kendall and H. C. Hess took the wheel, and found it uncontrollable. The boat then being entirely disabled, we let her float by the batteries, receiving about thirty shots at various places. The jack-staff and gallows frame was shot away; also one shot through the roof and chimney, one carrying away chalk-bitts line and chain, one through the office and cook house, and several through the cabin. We also received shell, canister, and musket shots. When opposite our pickets, were ordered to round to. We cast anchor, but the stocks being shot away, would not hold the boat. We hailed the boats lying to at that point for assistance, when the steamer Horizon was sent to our aid, but could not reach us until in range of the Warrenton battery, when she rounded to and left us. We floated by the battery (just before daylight), receiving but little damage, they only firing six shots at us.

After sunrise we were overhauled by the steamer Horizon, and taken in tow until in sight of New Carthage, when we were cut loose and floated until taken in tow by the Silver Wave and landed at this place, and reported to Major-General McClernand; the officers and men all standing firmly to their posts while passing the batteries, with bravery and coolness. The pilots and engineers handled the boat with great skill and bravery, none leaving their posts until she was entirely disabled, then putting out all the fire and light. Some of the men took the yawl for shore, fearing the boilers would burst and she would sink, all of whom have returned but two (J. H. Miller and A. B. Turner), who are supposed to be drowned.

Respectfully submitted.

L. B. FISK,
Captain Forty-fifth Illinois Infantry, Commanding the Boat.

Col. CLARK B. LAGOW,
Commanding the Fleet.

No. 4.

Report of Capt. George W. Kennard, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, commanding steamer Horizon.

STEAMER HORIZON,
New Carthage, La., April 23, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that, in compliance with Special Orders, No. 111, Headquarters Department of the Tennessee, the steamer Horizon, leaving Milliken's Bend at 9 p. m., 22d instant, steamed down the Mississippi to the mouth of the Yazoo River, where she remained in the channel until signaled to pass the Vicksburg batteries, then steamed slowly down to the bend, where she put on a full head of steam. In passing the first battery she received two shots, one through her derrick and one through her smoke-stack, larboard side. At the second battery she received two shots through her bulkhead. At the next battery she received two shots on hurricane deck, and, in all, while under fire passing Vicksburg batteries, about fifteen or sixteen shots, all forward and above boiler deck, except one through her cabin midships. When arriving below our pickets, she hailed the steamer Moderator and

found she was disabled, and attempted to go to her assistance, but, being unable to reach her, passed down to within 2 miles of the Warrenton battery, and landed where the flag-ship had gone down, at which time the Anglo-Saxon was seen floating by in a disabled condition. The Horizon being ordered to bring her in, followed her till within range of Warrenton battery, drawing their fire, while the Anglo-Saxon floated by almost unnoticed, when she returned to the Tigress, and was ordered to pass Warrenton battery and report at New Carthage.

At daylight the Horizon had passed the battery, it firing seventeen rounds, none doing any damage except the last, which struck the wheel rudder, larboard side, damaging it considerably. When out of range of Warrenton battery, the Horizon came up with the Anglo-Saxon, took her in tow, and floated down within signaling distance of New Carthage, and having given the proper signals, cut loose from the Anglo-Saxon, which was then taken in tow by steamer Silver Wave, sent out from New Carthage. The Horizon then steamed up and reported to General J. A. McClernand, at New Carthage.

The only casualty on board the Horizon was Private [George] McElvain, Company B, Twenty-third Indiana, slightly wounded in the head.

I am pleased to say that while we were under fire every man was at his post doing his duty. Each is deserving credit for coolness and good conduct. I take great pleasure in recommending to you for favor the names of Lieutenant [James D.] Vernay, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, Lieutenant [Jesse] Roberds, Thirty-first Illinois Infantry, Nathan Collins, Second Indiana Cavalry, and James H. Curts, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry, each of whom stood at his post and discharged his duties while under fire with a coolness and courage which deserves much praise. Pilots Collins and Curts, and P. Vancil, Thirty-first Illinois Infantry (mate), are each of them experienced river men, and are also trusty and reliable.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. W. KENNARD,
Captain Twentieth Illinois, Commanding Steamer Horizon.

Col. CLARK B. LAGOW, *Commanding Fleet.*

No. 5.

Report of Maj. Gen. M. L. Smith, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS SMITH'S DIVISION,
Vicksburg, Miss., April 25, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to transmit the inclosed report of Colonel [A.] Jackson, [jr.,] with indorsement by Brigadier-General [S. D.] Lee, regarding the passage of our batteries by the enemy's boats on the night of the 22d instant. The report and indorsement embody all the positive information obtained. The pickets, under Captain [C. J.] Foster, Twenty-seventh Louisiana Volunteers, and three men from the First Tennessee Artillery, sent across the river to fire the houses, performed their duty with great daring and success.

I have the honor to be, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. L. SMITH,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. J. J. REEVE, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 6.

Report of Col. A. Jackson, jr., C. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS RIVER BATTERIES,
Vicksburg, April 23, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the passage of the enemy's gunboats and the firing of the batteries under my command last night:

The alarm was given at 11.30 p. m., and, soon after, a boat appeared rounding the point above, and was followed by five others at short intervals. The first two cone side-wheel, the others stern-wheel transports, all small, light-draught boats, well protected at the sides by barges loaded with coal, bales of hay, or cotton. Their boilers and machinery were also protected by cotton-bales. Fire was opened upon each in succession as she came in view, and continued with spirit and accuracy until they were out of range. All the transports were riddled, and the escape of any seemed miraculous, considering the number of large projectiles sent crushing through them. One of them ran into the Louisiana shore opposite Wyman's hill battery, and was abandoned by her men, and floated down the river apparently in a disabled condition; another was also badly damaged, and floated down with the current. The atmosphere was hazy and close, and the smoke settled down over the river, often completely concealing and obscuring the boats, and rendering it almost impossible to fire with accuracy. This was, however, in a measure obviated while houses across the river were burning. The 10-inch columbiad, commanded by Captain [J. P.] Lynch, jumped the pintle at the twelfth discharge, but was remounted in a short time, and is now ready for action. One man was killed and 2 others were badly wounded by a premature discharge of Major [F. N.] Ogden's 10-inch columbiad. This accident, it is thought, was occasioned by the inferior cartridge-bags furnished. The friction-tubes were, as usual, a great source of annoyance, and caused much delay in firing almost every shell, frequently five, six, and eight failing in succession.

There were three hundred and ninety-one shots fired in all.

Very respectfully,

A. JACKSON, JR.,
Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. J. G. DEVEREUX,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Indorsement.]

Respectfully transmitted.

All the boats were struck, and repeatedly, and more or less damaged. One boat is visible this morning, sunk, her smoke-stacks and the upper part of her wheel-houses being visible. Another boat is believed to have been sunk, as two of them were disabled, their machinery having failed before passing the city. The river was well lighted up by the burning houses opposite the city, in De Soto. The firing was generally good, though much interfered with by the smoke of the guns settling in front of the batteries.

STEPHEN D. LEE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

APRIL 25–29, 1863.—Expedition to Hard Times Landing, La., with skirmishes (26th) at Phelps' and Clark's Bayous, and (28th) at Choctaw Bayou, or Lake Bruin.

*Report of Col. James Keigwin, Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry, commanding Detachment of Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.**

BIG BLACK RIVER BRIDGE, MISS.,
May 30, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report:

On April 24, I received orders to be in readiness to command a detachment of the Ninth Division, for the purpose of making a reconnaissance on the Lake Saint Joseph road to a point opposite the mouth of Bayou Pierre, for the purpose of ascertaining whether a practicable road could be found at or near that point that would let us in position on the flank or in rear of Grand Gulf; also for the purpose of capturing or dispersing the command of Major [I. F.] Harrison, which was on this road.

On the morning of the 25th, at 6 o'clock, I left camp at Perkins' plantation, La. The detachment consisted of the Forty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton commanding; One hundred and fourteenth Ohio, Colonel Cradlebaugh; a detachment of the Second Illinois Cavalry, Major Bush commanding, and one section of Captain Lanphere's Michigan battery, Lieutenant Stillman commanding. We moved on the Lake Saint Joseph road about 4 miles; we came to Holt's Bayou, and found that the rebels had burned the bridge. I detailed 100 men from each of the infantry regiments to assist Lieutenant-Colonel Beekman, of the One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry, who had been sent with us for the purpose of building bridges.

We soon had our men at work, and in a few hours had a bridge across the bayou, which was about 80 feet wide. I moved the cannon across and marched about 1 mile, and came to Durossette Bayou, which is about 120 feet wide, and was bank-full, with a stiff current. The bridge having been burned by the rebels a few days before, I detailed Lieut. James Fullyard, of the Forty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, to superintend the building of the bridge, which I found would have to be well built, on account of the strength of the current and width of the stream, and by the skillful management and industry of Lieutenant Fullyard and his men he completed the bridge that night and had all things ready for us to cross next morning.

At 5 o'clock on the morning of the 26th, we crossed the bridge and moved on. I left a guard of 1 sergeant and 10 men at each bridge to prevent any small party of the rebels from destroying them. We marched about 5 miles over a beautiful road, and came in sight of Phelps' Bayou, where we found the bridge had just been burned, and a rebel picket standing on the opposite side of the bayou, and between this and Clark's Bayou, which was only about 400 yards distant, on the opposite side of which I discovered Major Harrison's command, consisting of about 400 cavalry and four pieces of artillery. My advance guard fired a few shots at the rebel pickets, which drove them from the neck of land between the two bayous. I ordered my artillery forward, and threw a few shells into the rebel camp, which caused them to saddle up and leave in the greatest confusion. They left a few dismounted men under the cover of a hedge near the bank of the bayou, who kept up a fire on us until I sent two companies of infantry across to drive them away, which caused quite

* See map with Tunica's report (No. 8), p. 188.

a skirmish, lasting about one hour. The two companies of infantry finally succeeded in driving them from their cover, with a loss, on the part of the rebels, of 1 man.

As soon as the skirmishers were over, I immediately prepared to build the two bridges, which I found would take a great deal longer than it had to build the two former ones, as the bayous were much wider and current much stronger. I detailed Captain Peckinpaugh, of the Forty-ninth Indiana Volunteers, to superintend the building of these bridges, and I must compliment him for the good judgment displayed in working his men to the best advantage. We were not so well supplied with tools as we should have been for the task, and had not a rope or anything necessary for building the bridges after they were put in the stream. I detailed a few men from the cavalry, who in a short time, from their experience in foraging, had a supply of ropes and tools. It required all of the 26th and 27th to complete these two bridges.

I sent Major Hawhe, with two companies of the Forty-ninth Indiana and two from the One hundred and fourteenth Ohio, to cross Clark's Bayou and make a reconnaissance a few miles in our front, which he did in a successful manner. He found that Harrison had left the road to Hard Times Landing and crossed Choctaw Bayou, which empties into Lake Bruin about 2 miles from the road that we were to march on the next day.

We completed the bridges on the 27th, and I received orders from you to be at Hard Times Landing early the next day.

I left our bivouac on the morning of the 28th, leaving a sergeant and 10 men at each of the bridges as a guard. I sent two companies of cavalry, under command of Major Marsh, to leave the road and find out whether Harrison was still in the position he held the evening previous. I soon received word from him that he had found the enemy, and that he could not move him from the point he held. I immediately sent Major Bush in that direction. He had not been gone but a short time until I heard artillery firing. I left the road with my command, determined to drive him from the point he held, for I was fearful that as soon as we passed he would recross the bayou and destroy the bridges we had just built. I moved on, and soon came in sight of my cavalry, which were held at bay by the enemy's artillery. I halted my command, and went forward to reconnoiter and find out the position of the enemy, and found he had his four pieces of artillery in position. I found that Choctaw Bayou was a small stream about 60 feet wide. On the point of land into the angle where the bayou connected with Lake Bruin he had four pieces of artillery in battery. The only approach I had to the point was over a field that was open, and without stump or tree that would cover my skirmishers, with Lake Bruin on my left and the backwater from the bayou on my right, which left a strip of land about 500 yards wide and narrowing down to about 200 yards at the point and on the opposite side from the enemy's battery. His battery was supported on the right and left by his cavalry, which made quite a formidable appearance. I found that I could not use my infantry or cavalry to any advantage. At first I had my doubts whether with my two pieces I had that I could move him from his position. I formed my two regiments of infantry in column of divisions, and deployed four companies forward as skirmishers, and placed one piece of artillery on the bank of the lake, where it had a fine range, and in open view of the enemy's battery. The other piece I posted in the field, where it had an excellent range. I then ordered Lieutenant Stillman to open fire upon them with his artillery, and advanced my line of skir-

mishers, and the enemy opened fire with his battery, but did us no damage, his shots passing over my command. After a few shots from our pieces, he moved his cavalry out of range of our shells, and in about one hour from the time our artillery opened on him he limbered up and left the ground in a hurry. We followed as far as we could for the bayou and then halted.

Having no orders to bridge this bayou, and it being off of our line of march, and from all appearances the enemy had fled from our view, I returned to the road with my command, and there bivouacked for the night. I sent the cavalry on to Hard Times Landing, to report to you, having learned of your arrival during the day.

On the morning of the 29th instant we continued our march to the landing, arriving there at 8 a. m. There I received orders from the general to send the section of artillery to General Burbridge and the regiments to report to their former commanders, which they did in a short time, and were on board the transports, ready to assist in the attack on Grand Gulf.

I cannot speak in too high terms of all the officers and men in the detachment, they being ever ready to assist in all the labors of building bridges, and so forth, and were ever ready to obey any command, and all seemed, when we came in sight of the enemy, to be ready for any emergency. I cannot but feel indebted to Lieutenant Stillman and his men for their bravery and skill. I scarcely ever witnessed as fine artillery shooting.

To Captain Peckinpaugh and Lieutenant Fullyard, of the Forty-ninth Indiana, I was indebted for the speedy construction of the bridges across the bayous and for aiding me in all the duties I had to perform on the trip.

I will say, in conclusion, that a good road was found all the way around to near the mouth of Bayou Pierre, and, as I have since learned, the most of the army that crossed the river after us marched on the road and bridges we had constructed.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES KEIGWIN,
Colonel, Commanding Detachment.

Capt. J. W. THOMPSON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Ninth Division.

APRIL 29, 1863.—Bombardment of Grand Gulf, Miss., and passage of the batteries.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Maj. Ezra P. Jackson, Fifty-eighth Ohio Infantry.
No. 2.—Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. Army.
No. 3.—Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army.
No. 4.—Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Maj. Ezra P. Jackson, Fifty-eighth Ohio Infantry.

U. S. ORDNANCE STEAMER GREAT WESTERN,
Near Vicksburg, May 22, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you that the following companies of this command were in action in the bombardment of Grand Gulf,

Miss., April 29, 1863: Companies A, B, D, F, G, H, and K—being at present detached to service on the gunboat fleet, under command of Actg. Rear-Admiral D. D. Porter, as follows:

Companies A and B, on the U. S. gunboat Mound City; Company D, on the U. S. gunboat Carondelet; Companies F and G, on the U. S. gunboat Benton; Company H, on the U. S. gunboat Pittsburg, and Company K, on the U. S. gunboat Louisville.

The loss of the different companies of this regiment participating in action is as follows:*

I have the honor to report the above statement as correct. Being that this regiment is at present on detached service, reports from the different companies are not received without some delay, which is the reason for not sending in this report sooner.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. P. JACKSON,
Major, Commanding.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Gen. John C. Pemberton, C. S. Army.

JACKSON, *April* 29, [1863.]

Six gunboats, averaging ten guns each, opened a terrific fire upon our batteries at Grand Gulf at 7 a. m., and continued without intermission six hours and a half, when they withdrew. Several boats apparently damaged; one, disabled, lying on Louisiana shore below. Our loss, 3 killed, including Colonel [William] Wade, General Bowen's chief of artillery; 12 or 15 wounded. Repairs are being made, expecting a renewal of attack to-morrow. Transports loaded with troops in sight, but inactive.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER.

No. 3.

Reports of Maj. Gen. Carter L. Stevenson, C. S. Army.

VICKSBURG, *April* 28, 1863.

The men will be ready to move promptly to cross the Mississippi. Both gunboats and transports must pass the batteries at Grand Gulf. Our army large enough to defend itself on this side; would consume much time in crossing.

As it is not known what force has been withdrawn from this front, it is not improbable that the force opposite Grand Gulf is there to lay waste the country on that side, and a feint to withdraw troops from a main attack here. I venture to express the hope that the troops will

* Nominal list, omitted, shows 1 enlisted man killed; 1 officer and 17 enlisted men wounded.

not be removed far until further developments below render it certain that they will cross in force.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

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VICKSBURG, *April* 29, 1863.

The line to Grand Gulf is broken. Heavy firing in that direction, under the circumstances, has induced me to start a re-enforcement. Eight boats, loaded with troops from our front, are now moving up Yazoo. The display made in moving them showed a desire to attract our attention.

C. L. STEVENSON,
Major-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON, *Jackson.*

No. 4.

Reports of Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army.

GRAND GULF, *April* 29, 1863.

Six gunboats, averaging ten guns, have been bombarding my batteries terrifically since 7 a. m. They pass and repass the batteries at the closest ranges. I cannot tell the effect of our shots. Six transports in sight, loaded with troops, but stationary. My loss as yet only 2 killed. The batteries, especially the lower ones, are badly torn to pieces. I cannot tell the result, but think that re-enforcements would hardly reach me in time to aid in the defense if they attempt to land.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *April* 29, 1863.

After six hours and a half of continued firing, the gunboats have retired. They fired about 3,000 shot and shell, temporarily disabling one gun. Our loss is 3 killed and 12 or 15 wounded. Apparently we injured two of their boats; damage unknown. Col. William Wade, of the artillery, one of the bravest and best of my command, was killed at his post.

The men behaved like veterans (as they are), and are now hard at work preparing for another attack.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *April* 29, 1863.

One disabled gunboat, after endeavoring unsuccessfully to go up the river, now lies about 3 miles below, by the Louisiana shore.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

Send me cartridge-bags, shot, and shell for Grayson's gun. Also 10-pounder Parrott ammunition. Major [G. U.] Mayo knows caliber. Wirt Adams has met the cavalry raid near Fayette and drove them toward Brookhaven. Dispositions for the morning perfected. Troops in fine spirits.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

ADDENDA.

JACKSON, *April* 29, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

In the name of the army, I desire to thank you and your troops for your gallant conduct to-day. Keep up the good work by every effort to repair damages to-night. Yesterday I warmly recommended you for a major-generalcy. I shall renew it.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

APRIL 29–MAY 1, 1863.—Demonstration on Haynes' and Drumgould's Bluffs, or engagement at Snyder's Mill, Miss.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Louis Hébert, C. S. Army.

No. 1.

Report of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps.

ON BOARD FLAG-SHIP BLACK HAWK,
Below Haynes' Bluff, May 1, 1863.

DEAR GENERAL: Am this moment in receipt of yours from below Grand Gulf.† Have sent orders for Steele's and Tuttle's divisions to move to Perkins', and shall follow to-morrow. We will be there as soon as possible.

Tuttle will move by the new road, and Steele by Richmond.

Yesterday the new Choctaw, followed by all the other gunboats and our transports, approached the Bluff. We kept up a heavy fire, which was returned by the enemy. The Choctaw was struck fifty-three times, but her injuries are not in any vital part. Strange to say, no one was hurt. The De Kalb also was uninjured. The Tyler caught one shot on her water-line, which is repaired. I disembarked the command at Blake's negro quarters, and made disposition as for attack, which was kept up till after dark, drawing heavy fire.

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* See also Sherman's report of engagement at Jackson, &c. For reports of Lieut. Commanders K. R. Breese, James M. Pritchett, Frank M. Ramsay, and John G. Walker, U. S. Navy, see Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

† See Grant to Sherman, April 29, in "Correspondence, etc," Part III, p. 246.

To-day I have felt all the paths and levees back, the ground, except the levees, being all under water still; and at 3 p. m. we will open another cannonade to prolong the diversion, and keep it up till after dark, when we shall drop down to Chickasaw, and so on back to camp.

To-morrow I will move Blair's division up to Milliken's Bend, just below your headquarters, and with Steele's and Tuttle's divisions will obey your order and reach Perkins'. I hear the enemy has crossed over to Biggs' plantation in yawls, doubtless to see what we are about. They will not find out much. The road to Richmond cannot be reached from Biggs' on account of the overflow.

All our regimental wagons must be on the road, which will leave me without wagons, but I will get to Perkins' somehow. Steele will write you all of interest from Milliken's.

All well with us here, and I do not apprehend any serious loss in the cannonade proposed for this p. m. I want to prolong the diversion as much as possible in your favor.

In haste,

SHERMAN.

General GRANT.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. Louis Hebert, C. S. Army.

HDQRS. SECOND DIST., DEPT. OF MISS. AND E. LA.,
Vicksburg, May 11, 1863.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

SIR: Herewith I transmit to you, with my approval, the report of Brigadier-General Hébert of the engagement with the enemy at Snyder's Mill, April 30 and May 1, 1863.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. FORNEY,
Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS,
Snyder's Mill, May 4, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to report that on April 20 a fleet of the enemy's gunboats and transports descended the Yazoo River as far as the mouth of Chickasaw Bayou.

On the 30th, in the morning, the fleet advanced, and by 10.15 a. m. the gunboats engaged our batteries and commenced shelling our lines of works; the transports in the mean time, landing below out of reach of our guns, disembarked infantry. The position assumed by the gunboats only permitted our batteries to engage the leading iron-clad Choctaw at a distance of about 2,000 yards. At 2.30 p. m. this boat had been so injured as to be compelled to draw out of the fight for repairs, and our firing against the boats ceased. During the afternoon the enemy's infantry were seen to advance along the river in front of our left. A few shots from our guns on our left wing soon made them desist, and although the shelling continued until dark, the enemy's troops (with the exception of skirmishers) fell back to their transports, and all became quiet for the night. As the boats ascended the river, our pickets had fallen

back to our lines, except the Third Regiment Louisiana Infantry, which maintained its advanced position along a cross levee, where they remained until about 4 p. m., having left a lieutenant and 9 men on the immediate river bank until the leading gunboats had passed up. This small party opened musketry on the boat, and were finally driven back by a body of skirmishers landed from her.

In this skirmish Lieutenant [J. R.] Cottingham, commanding our small party, was severely wounded and captured. Two privates of the Twenty-first Infantry, managing the heavy batteries, were severely wounded by a shell, one losing his leg by after amputation, and the other having two ribs broken and the flesh torn from his side. Our batteries suffered no injury on April 30.

During the night of the 30th, a few additional guns were added to our batteries on the left, and one additional gunboat and four transports joined the enemy's fleet by 12 m., May 1. During the forenoon two reconnoitering parties, one on each bank of the river, approached our batteries; a few well-directed shots drove them back. At 3 p. m. the enemy opened a rapid and terrific bombardment on our batteries on the left, which continued without abatement until 7.30 p. m., when all firing ceased. The shelling of the enemy was at times general along our entire line. For some time our guns replied and with good effect, forcing all the boats to fall back and the transports to retire out of range.

The day's fight resulted in no casualties on the Confederate side. One of our guns was slightly injured by its own recoil, but was easily repaired in the night.

On the 1st, a deserter rode directly from the enemy's line through his pickets to our front, and delivered himself into our hands.

In the night of May 2, the enemy completely withdrew, and by daylight not a boat was left in the Yazoo River. From observation and information, the enemy's armed boats consisted of the gunboats Choctaw, De Kalb, and Black Hawk, three of the musquito fleet (Nos. 1, 3, and 8), and three mortar-boats. The transports are known to have been over twelve in number.

During the bombardment the infantry and light artillery of our forces remained near their respective positions in the intrenchments, and awaited with eager spirit and coolness the attack of the foe. Our troops in the heavy batteries acted with all commendable gallantry. Indeed, it is my duty to report my complete satisfaction with the conduct of all the officers and soldiers of my command. The major-general commanding district, while present, can have seen that there existed no alarm or even trepidation among our troops.

Casualties.—Lieutenant Cottingham, Third Louisiana Infantry, severely wounded and captured; Corpl. F. Haggerty, Company D, Twenty-first Louisiana Infantry (heavy batteries), loss of leg by wound and amputation; Private D. Houston, Company C, of Twenty-first Louisiana Infantry (heavy batteries), severely and dangerously wounded in the side.

Herewith please find reports of the different officers.*

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,

LOUIS HÉBERT,
Brigadier-General.

Maj. S. CROOM,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Second Dist., Dept. of Miss. and E. La.

*Not found.

APRIL 29-MAY 5, 1863.—Scout from La Grange, Tenn., into Northern Mississippi.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Edward Hatch, Second Iowa Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding First Military District.

No. 1.

Report of Col. Edward Hatch, Second Iowa Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *May* 5, 1863.

CAPTAIN: Complying with Brigadier-General Smith's orders, left La Grange on the morning of April 29, 1863, with the Second Iowa Cavalry, Sixth Iowa Infantry (mounted), Fourth Illinois Cavalry, four 10-pounder guns, and 80 men of the West Tennessee Cavalry—in all, an effective force of 1,300 men—to attack the forces of the enemy concentrating at New Albany and Pontotoc, to intercept the supposed return of Colonel Grierson. Marched 38 miles, and camped south of Ripley.

Learning that General Chalmers (Confederate), with a force of 1,500 men and one piece of artillery, had encamped at New Albany, and would dispute the passage of the Tallahatchee, passed at this point by two bridges, each about 200 feet in length, on the morning of the 30th, threw forward a detachment toward the bridges, moving with the main body to the crossing at Lee's Mills, 8 miles above, on the Tallahatchee. Coming upon their pickets at this point, captured a lieutenant and 1 private, and immediately pushed for the rear and flank of the enemy. Coming upon the trail of the enemy, I supposed it was the main body moving toward Okolona, but afterward learned that a regiment of the enemy had been sent to Okolona to mislead me, while the main body crossed the bridges, going north, burning them and King's Bridge, 6 miles below, on the stream.

On May 1, pushed rapidly toward Okolona, through Chesterville, coming occasionally upon the enemy, and, capturing a few prisoners, camped south of Tupelo that night.

May 2, moved toward Okolona, the enemy burning bridges in our advance, until we reached the Chiwapa, 6 miles from Okolona, which was so impassable, being swollen, and the bridge, an important one, destroyed, that I was obliged to move up the stream in a northwestern direction 12 miles, to effect a crossing, where I camped, throwing out detachments to examine the crossings. There I learned that General Chalmers, the day before, had moved north to my rear, and then recrossed the Tallahatchee at Rocky Ford, going south, and was moving on Pontotoc. I immediately took up line of march at dark toward Pontotoc, marching nearly all night in a rain-storm, hoping to come upon him at this point. When within 6 miles of Pontotoc, my scouts informed me that Chalmers had again taken flight hurriedly for Grenada.

Learning there could be no doubt of Colonel Grierson having moved rapidly to Baton Rouge, on May 3 took up my line of march toward La Grange, arriving here on the 5th of May, bringing in about 400 captured stock and 20 prisoners.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD HATCH,
Colonel, Commanding.

Capt. WILLIAM H. MORGAN, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army, commanding First Military District.

OKOLONA, MISS., *May* 13, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant-general commanding, that during the night of the 1st instant I received information, by telegraph, that a raid of the enemy was coming from the direction of New Albany toward Okolona, and I proceeded by the morning train to that point, and, on arrival (about 4 p. m.), information received indicated that the previous reports were without foundation. I, however, ordered the troops in the vicinity to prepare immediately for the field, with the view of meeting any contingency. The previous disposition of troops had been made with the special object of intercepting the enemy's return from his raid to the Southern Railroad.

About 9 p. m. I received information that the enemy were actually in the district north of the Chiwapa, and ordered the troops to be in readiness to march at 3 o'clock on the following morning. This direction was given in conformity with an understanding with General Gholson, commanding a few State troops, then some 2 miles in advance of Okolona, that he would join me if my troops could be in readiness to march at that time. Of this there was reasonable doubt, on account of previous harassing marches of a portion of the troops separated from their supplies. The condition of the troops and the inclemency of the weather prevented the assembling and the execution of the order with the required promptitude. In the mean time the enemy was represented as moving south of Verona, toward Camargo, a point some 9 miles east of this place, with the supposed purpose of attacking either Aberdeen or Okolona from that point, which rendered it necessary to take measures of precaution before moving in an opposite direction with my cavalry. To meet this requirement, I caused Colonel [J. W.] Rogers' regiment of Arkansas troops, which I brought from West Point to this station, to disembark from the train for the defense of the railroad and town, although then under orders to proceed to Meridian, which, in conjunction with Captain Owens' light battery, ordered from Aberdeen, was deemed a sufficient protection. This arrangement effected with my troops, I moved before daylight, and, joined by General Gholson with some 200 State troops, proceeded, after some delay awaiting the arrival of Colonel [J.] Cunningham's regiment and expected information of the enemy, to the northwest, with the view of getting upon the enemy's flank or rear, and thus cutting off his retreat, having reasonable expectation of being joined during the day or succeeding night by Brigadier-General Chalmers, a direct movement on the shortest line toward the then supposed position of the enemy being hazardous, in consequence of extensive and almost impracticable swamps intervening and in his immediate front. This junction was deemed desirable on account of the smallness of my fighting force, with its inferior arms and the reported strength of the enemy.

After having marched some 12 or 14 miles, I received intelligence, at about 3 p. m., that the enemy, returning from the direction of Camargo, had retreated precipitately early during the night previous, and had already so far advanced as to preclude the hope of overtaking him.

The enemy was believed to have numbered some 1,500 mounted men, with four pieces of artillery. To plunder and waste the country was apparently the object of his expedition.

On the following morning, I moved my forces to Verona, Tupelo, and vicinity, having sent, the evening before, Colonel Rogers' regiment of Arkansas troops to Meridian, and General Gholson's State troops proceeded toward Chesterville.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MAY 1, 1863.—Battle of Port Gibson, or Thompson's Hill, Miss.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Return of Casualties in the Union forces.
No. 2.—Col. John G. Fonda, One hundred and eighteenth Illinois Infantry, First Brigade, Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.
No. 3.—Col. James Keigwin, Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry.
No. 4.—Maj. Hugh W. Adams, Seventh Kentucky Infantry.
No. 5.—Col. Marcus M. Spiegel, One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry.
No. 6.—Col. Lionel A. Sheldon, Forty-second Ohio Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.
No. 7.—Capt. Charles H. Lanphere, Seventh Michigan Battery.
No. 8.—Lieut. Charles B. Kimball, First Wisconsin Battery.
No. 9.—Col. Theodore E. Buehler, Sixty-seventh Indiana Infantry, First Brigade, Tenth Division, including operations April 14–May 22.
No. 10.—Col. Friend S. Rutherford, Ninety-seventh Illinois Infantry, Second Brigade.
No. 11.—Brig. Gen. Alvin P. Hovey, U. S. Army, commanding Twelfth Division, including operations since April 14.
No. 12.—Brig. Gen. George F. McGinnis, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.
No. 13.—Col. Daniel Macauley, Eleventh Indiana Infantry.
No. 14.—Col. James R. Slack, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.
No. 15.—Lieut. Col. John A. McLaughlin, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry.
No. 16.—Lieut. James G. Strong, adjutant Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry.
No. 17.—Brig. Gen. Eugene A. Carr, U. S. Army, commanding Fourteenth Division, including operations April 12–May 22.
No. 18.—Brig. Gen. William P. Benton, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.
No. 19.—Col. William M. Stone, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.
No. 20.—Col. Samuel Merrill, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry.
No. 21.—Maj. Joseph B. Atherton, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry.
No. 22.—Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, including operations April 18–May 19.
No. 23.—Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, including operations April 25–May 19.
No. 24.—Col. Manning F. Force, Twentieth Ohio Infantry, Second Brigade.
No. 25.—Brig. Gen. John D. Stevenson, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.
No. 26.—Col. James J. Dollins, Eighty-first Illinois Infantry.
No. 27.—Maj. Gen. William W. Loring, C. S. Army, commanding division.

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* See also general reports of Grant, McClernand, and Pemberton; and Burbridge's report of engagement at Champion's Hill, Part II, p. 30.

No. 28.—Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army, commanding Confederate forces, with correspondence, &c.

No. 29.—Col. Francis M. Cockrell, Second Missouri Infantry (Confederate), commanding First Brigade, Bowen's division.

No. 30.—Col. Eugene Erwin, Sixth Missouri Infantry (Confederate).

No. 31.—Brig. Gen. Martin E. Green, C. S. Army, commanding Second Brigade, Bowen's division.

No. 32.—Brig. Gen. William E. Baldwin, C. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Smith's division.

No. 33.—Col. Isham W. Garrott, Twentieth Alabama Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Stevenson's division.

No. 1.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces at the battle of Port Gibson, Thompson's Hill, or Magnolia Church, Miss., May 1, 1863.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS.						
Maj. Gen. JOHN A. MCCLERNAND.						
NINTH DIVISION.						
Brig. Gen. PETER J. OSTERHAUS.						
First Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. THEOPHILUS T. GARRARD.						
118th Illinois	.....	1	1	15	.....	17
49th Indiana	.....	1	3	12	1	17
69th Indiana	.....	14	4	41	.....	59
7th Kentucky	.....	.....	.....	8	.....	8
120th Ohio	.....	2	.....	18	2	22
Total First Brigade	.....	18	8	94	3	123
Second Brigade.						
Col. LIONEL A. SHELDON.						
54th Indiana*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
22d Kentucky	.....	.....	1	2	.....	3
16th Ohio	.....	1	.....	8	.....	9
42d Ohio	1	11	8	39	.....	59
114th Ohio	.....	2	.....	8	.....	10
Total Second Brigade	1	14	9	57	.....	81
Artillery.						
Michigan Light Artillery, 7th Battery	.....	3	.....	3	.....	6
Wisconsin Light Artillery, 1st Battery	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	4
Total artillery	.....	3	.....	7	.....	10
Cavalry.						
3d Illinois, Companies A, E, and K*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Ninth Division	1	35	17	158	3	214

* No loss reported.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
TENTH DIVISION.						
Brig. Gen. ANDREW J. SMITH.						
First Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. STEPHEN G. BURBRIDGE.						
16th Indiana	----	----	----	2	----	2
60th Indiana*	----	----	----	----	----	----
67th Indiana	----	----	----	2	----	2
83d Ohio	----	----	----	3	----	3
96th Ohio*	----	----	----	----	----	----
23d Wisconsin	----	----	----	1	----	1
Total First Brigade	----	----	----	8	----	8
Second Brigade.						
Col. WILLIAM J. LANDRAM.						
77th Illinois†	----	----	----	----	----	----
97th Illinois	----	----	----	6	2	8
108th Illinois	----	----	----	1	5	6
130th Illinois	----	----	1	----	1	2
19th Kentucky	----	2	1	12	----	15
48th Ohio†	----	----	----	----	----	----
Total Second Brigade	----	2	2	19	8	31
Artillery.						
Illinois Light Artillery, Chicago Mercantile Battery†	----	----	----	----	----	----
Ohio Light Artillery, 17th Battery†	----	----	----	----	----	----
Cavalry.						
4th Indiana Cavalry, Company C†	----	----	----	----	----	----
Total Tenth Division	----	2	2	27	8	39
TWELFTH DIVISION.						
Brig. Gen. ALVIN P. HOVEY.						
Escort.						
1st Indiana Cavalry, Company C†	----	----	----	----	----	----
First Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. GEORGE F. MCGINNIS.						
11th Indiana	----	1	----	23	1	25
24th Indiana	----	5	----	18	----	23
34th Indiana	----	6	3	42	----	51
46th Indiana	----	8	1	35	----	44
29th Wisconsin	----	10	3	62	----	75
Ohio Light Artillery, 2d Battery	----	----	----	3	----	3
Ohio Light Artillery, 16th Battery†	----	----	----	----	----	----
Total First Brigade	----	30	7	183	1	221
Second Brigade.						
Col. JAMES R. SLACK.						
47th Indiana	----	5	----	20	1	26
24th Iowa	----	1	----	5	----	6
28th Iowa	----	3	----	14	3	20
56th Ohio	----	6	----	23	7	36
2d Illinois Light Artillery, Battery A	----	1	----	----	----	1
1st Missouri Light Artillery, Battery A†	----	----	----	----	----	----
Total Second Brigade	----	16	----	62	11	89
Total Twelfth Division	----	46	7	245	11	310

* Detached. †No loss reported.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
FOURTEENTH DIVISION.						
Brig. Gen. EUGENE A. CARR.						
Escort.						
3d Illinois Cavalry, Company G*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
First Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. WILLIAM P. BENTON.						
33d Illinois	.....	.....	1	12	.....	13
99th Illinois	.....	4	1	18	.....	23
8th Indiana	.....	4	.....	38	.....	42
18th Indiana	.....	19	3	61	.....	83
1st United States, Companies A, B, C, D, H, and H	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Indiana Light Artillery, 1st Battery	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
Total First Brigade	.....	28	5	129	.....	162
Second Brigade.						
Col. WILLIAM M. STONE.						
21st Iowa	.....	.....	1	16	.....	17
22d Iowa	.....	2	4	17	.....	23
23d Iowa	.....	9	2	24	.....	35
11th Wisconsin	.....	2	.....	23	.....	25
Iowa Light Artillery, 1st Battery	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Total Second Brigade	.....	13	7	81	.....	101
Total Fourteenth Division	.....	41	12	210	.....	263
Unattached.						
2d Illinois Cavalry, Companies F, G, H, I, and K*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
3d Illinois Cavalry, Company L*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Patterson's company, Kentucky infantry*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6th Missouri Cavalry, Companies B, E, F, G, H, I, and K*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Thirteenth Army Corps	1	124	38	640	23	826
SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.						
Maj. Gen. JAMES B. MCPHERSON.						
Escort.						
Ohio Cavalry, 4th Company*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
THIRD DIVISION.						
Maj. Gen. JOHN A. LOGAN.						
Escort.						
2d Illinois Cavalry, Company A	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
First Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. JOHN E. SMITH.						
20th Illinois	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
31st Illinois	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	1
45th Illinois*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
124th Illinois	.....	.....	1	1	.....	2
23d Indiana	.....	4	3	20	.....	27
Total First Brigade	.....	5	4	23	.....	32

* No loss reported. † Not in action.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces, &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
Second Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. ELIAS S. DENNIS.						
30th Illinois	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
20th Ohio	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
68th Ohio	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
78th Ohio	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Second Brigade	.....	.....	1	2	.....	3
Third Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. JOHN D. STEVENSON.						
8th Illinois	.....	.....	1	2	.....	3
81st Illinois	.....	.....	.....	1	2	3
7th Missouri	.....	1	.....	4	.....	5
3d Ohio*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Third Brigade	.....	1	1	7	2	11
Artillery.						
Michigan Light Artillery, 8th Battery	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Total Third Division	.....	6	6	35	2	49

RECAPITULATION.

Thirteenth Army Corps	1	124	38	640	23	826
Seventeenth Army Corps	.....	6	6	35	2	49
Grand total	1	130	44	675	25	875

OFFICER KILLED.—Capt. William W. Olds, Forty-second Ohio Infantry.

No. 2.

Report of Col. John G. Fonda, One hundred and eighteenth Illinois Infantry, First Brigade, Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.

PORT GIBSON, MISS., *May* 2, 1863.

COLONEL: In compliance with orders just received, I submit the following as a statement of the part the One hundred and eighteenth Illinois Infantry took in the engagements of yesterday:

The regiment was marched to the field with the brigade at about 7 a. m., and was first formed in line of battle in the corn-field in the rear and to the left of Lanphere's battery. One company was here detailed to support the battery. After remaining in this position about three-fourths of an hour, I was ordered to move forward and take a position at a fence in front of the battery, the One hundred and twentieth

* No loss reported.

Ohio Infantry being on our left. After remaining here about an hour, I was ordered forward to relieve the Forty-second Ohio Infantry, which was then engaged around the point of timber to the right. I immediately formed my men in rear of the Forty-second Ohio Infantry, and detached one company from the right, and deployed it on the right of said regiment, and one company to fill a vacant space in the center of said regiment. Immediately after this formation, the two regiments charged across the open ground in face of the enemy's fire. I then moved seven companies to the left, and opened fire. The One hundred and Twentieth Ohio and Sixty-ninth Indiana were so situated that it required great care to prevent accident by firing into them. I am satisfied, however, that neither regiment was fired into by my men.

After firing from this position until about 11 a. m., I moved forward to the right, my men being much exhausted, and receiving no order nor any relief, I moved still farther to the right and extreme lower end of the open ground spoken of above, the One hundred and twentieth Ohio being on my left. I here rested my men until ordered to retire.

In making the first movement across the open ground, 1 man was killed; during the day 15 others were severely wounded; several others were hit, but not injured.

I remain, colonel, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

JOHN G. FONDA,

Col., Comdg. One hundred and eighteenth Illinois Vol. Infantry.

Col. T. T. GARRARD,
Commanding First Brigade.

No. 3.

Report of Col. James Keigwin, Forty-ninth Indiana Infantry.

IN FIELD, NEAR PORT GIBSON, *May* 2, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to herewith submit the following, as a report of the part taken by the Forty-ninth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the battle at Thompson's Hill, on the 1st of May, 1863:

We were ordered from our bivouac, at 6 o'clock on the morning of the 1st, to the front and extreme left of our lines, to support Captain Lanphere's battery. We followed the battery to the old barn in the rear of Shafer's house, when the enemy opened on us from his battery, about 1,000 yards distant. I moved my regiment to the left of Lanphere's battery, in rear of some small timber, where I remained covered until we were ordered forward. I caused Company A, Captain McConahay, Company B, Lieutenant Bare, and Company I, Captain Alles, to deploy as skirmishers, and advanced about 500 yards, when my skirmishers found those of the enemy in a ravine between us and the enemy's battery. I was halted at this point by an order from General Osterhaus, and remained there about half an hour, while the artillery was hotly engaged. I was then ordered to cross over to the right, and take the house on the left of the enemy's battery, which was about 200 yards from it. After I had crossed the fire of the enemy, and was about entering into the woods in front of me, the battery of the enemy opened on me with grape, and the Thirty-first Alabama, which was in line about 60 yards distant, opened fire upon us with small-arms. I

halted my command, threw them in battle line, and commenced firing, and soon drove the enemy across the second ravine between me and their battery, which was not over 400 yards distant. I kept my men firing for one hour and ten minutes, when I was relieved by the Forty-second Ohio. I then ordered my men about 50 yards to the rear, to a secure point, and rested for about an hour, when I was ordered to the extreme left. I remained here several hours, when I was ordered to support Captain Foster's battery, on the right. I remained at this point for some time, when I was ordered to the front, to charge the old house, where the enemy had been posted the whole day. I formed my line, and marched in good order until I came to the ravines in our front. The first one I passed by obliquing the three right companies, but I found from the depth and roughness of the second that I would have to pass it without any order. I was then but a short distance from the house, when I gave the order to charge, double-quick, with a yell, and from the noise that was made I am sure that every officer and soldier obeyed the command. We got to the house, and passed to the rear of it, where there was a high fence. Over the fence about 30 yards we found the Sixth Missouri (rebel) Regiment coming up toward us, with bayonets fixed, but we were about one minute too fast for them. We had the advantage of the hill. As soon as they discovered us, they halted and fired a volley, which passed over us without doing us any damage. I then ordered my men to fire, when the rebel regiment broke and fled from us, and we poured the lead into their backs, much to our amusement and their sorrow. We killed and wounded a large number of them, and took about 50 prisoners. During the charge, I did not lose a man. I then formed a line again, and sent Companies A and E, Lieutenant Evans, Company E, commanding, to General Osterhaus, and they had a race after the retreating enemy, capturing several prisoners. Stephen Marshall, a private of Company E, shot a rebel officer, and captured his sword, horse, saddle, and bridle. The sword was taken by some staff officer, and I would recommend that it be given to the soldier as a trophy for his gallant conduct during the day.

I marched my regiment to within 1 mile of Port Gibson, and there bivouacked for the night. During the day's fighting my regiment was very fortunate, having lost but 1 man killed and 14 wounded. Their names and ranks are as follows.*

[JAMES KEIGWIN.]

W. A. JORDAN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 4.

Report of Maj. Hugh W. Adams, Seventh Kentucky Infantry.

BLACK RIVER BRIDGE, MISS., *June* 27, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to your request, I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Seventh Regiment Kentucky Volunteer Infantry in the action at Thompson's Hill, Miss., May 1, 1863:

On the morning of May 1, 1863, I was ordered to move forward with my regiment to discover and feel of the enemy, and to support a section

* Nominal list omitted.

of Captain Lanphere's (First Wisconsin) [Seventh Michigan] battery. In obedience to said order, I advanced with my regiment and took position on the right and in advance of said battery, when the enemy opened fire upon the regiment and battery, and a brisk artillery fight ensued. I was then ordered to advance with my regiment, which I did, in line of battle, to a canebrake, about 200 yards in advance of my original position, where I halted and remained about one-half hour, and then, by order, moved to the rear and right.

Remaining here a short time, we again moved forward and to the right. Sending a company of skirmishers forward, we took position on the right of the brigade (First), where we remained during the day without being engaged with the enemy, except with skirmishers. The loss of my regiment in the engagement was 8 wounded, one of whom has since died.

H. W. ADAMS,
Major Seventh Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, Comdg. Regiment.

General T. T. GARRARD.

No. 5.

Report of Col. Marcus M. Spiegel, One hundred and twentieth Ohio Infantry.

IN THE FIELD, *May* 4, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to herewith transmit the following report of the part taken by the One hundred and twentieth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the action of Thompson's Hill, on the 1st instant:

About 5 o'clock in the morning, we were ordered to advance and take a position on the right of Lanphere's battery, which was accordingly done, under a severe fire of the enemy's shell, in which position we remained about half an hour, when we advanced to the edge of the ravine, and from there were ordered to advance and form a line of battle in a ravine to the extreme left of the division. Soon after, in conjunction with the One hundred and eighteenth Illinois Infantry, we advanced briskly across the open field, taking a position behind a fence fronting the enemy, and in support of the Forty-ninth Indiana, who were deployed as skirmishers on the edge of the woods. Soon thereafter Colonel Keigwin, of the Forty-ninth Indiana, informed me that he had been ordered to the right on a line with his position, and at the same time I received orders to cover the front with my skirmishers, and relieve him. I then advanced Companies A, F, and K as skirmishers, and D, I, and B in support.

At 7.30 I was ordered to recall all but one of my companies. I moved, as ordered, to the right, in advance of our line, to relieve the Forty-second Ohio. While passing between our batteries and the position of the Forty-second Ohio, the enemy's shell, grape shot, and bullets flew thick and fast around us, but the brave and gallant boys moved briskly and bravely on, until we arrived in front of the Forty-second Ohio, close to a ravine running parallel with the enemy's strongest position. I then engaged the enemy about twenty minutes, without being able to do him much harm, he being completely under cover on the opposite bank of the ravine. I then advanced as skirmishers some of the best shots from all the companies down into the ravine, with orders to

advance, closely supporting them with the remainder of the regiment, and keeping up a constant fire toward the top of the opposite bank. When nearly down into the ravine, I discovered the exact position of the enemy's advance, toward the left, on the opposite bank. I then charged upon them with the regiment, and quickly drove them from the bank to the knoll, where they rallied and made a stand, which only increased the determination of my brave boys. Rushing up the bank, we drove them pell-mell from behind the knoll, taking 8 prisoners.

When I had obtained possession of the knoll, I did not deem it prudent to pursue them farther, being at least 300 yards in advance of any of our troops, and in danger of meeting the enemy's entire right wing massed behind a number of old buildings directly in front of me. I deployed my regiment on the knoll, in order to punish the retiring force and hold the position against a more formidable attack. As soon as the retiring enemy had rejoined the main body, the attack was renewed with redoubled fierceness and energy, but, meeting with such continued and well-directed volleys from us, he fell back under the cover of the houses again. I then continued to fight the enemy, who was concealed behind logs, fences, and houses, and some perched upon the tops of trees, until my ammunition was beginning to give out and many of the guns were becoming unfit for use, when I was relieved by Col. T. W. Bennett, of the Sixty-ninth Indiana, and ordered to retire. I then fell back to the second ravine in my rear, replenishing the empty cartridge-boxes with ammunition from the boxes of the comrades who were killed and wounded. I remained in that position until late in the afternoon, when, seeing the charge made on the left, I quickly formed my regiment, marching them toward the charging column, in order to support them, if necessary. When, however, the enemy fled in confusion, a glorious victory won, the One hundred and twentieth had nothing more to do than to exult, cheer, and be merry, and that I assure you was done.

I cannot close this report, general, without saying that the men of the One hundred and twentieth Ohio have not only justified their former reputation, but have even excelled it. They displayed a gallantry and bravery on that day which will never be forgotten by their country. To the line officers, all of whom stood bravely up to the work, I am indebted much for their aid and courage in carrying out every order given. Lieutenant-Colonel Beekman has shown himself an officer worthy of the position he holds. While promptly assisting in maneuvering the regiment, his encouraging and cheering words were always heard along the line.

Major Slocum, while with me in the morning, showed that coolness and courage for which he is well known in the army, and while detailed to take charge of the skirmishers of the left flank of the division, did his whole duty to the entire satisfaction of the general commanding the division.

Adjutant Sherman, though young in years, has truly shown himself a veteran in the field. He possesses all the elements necessary to qualify him for the position he holds; brave and cool, he becomes courageous and dashing when the occasion requires it.

Both officers and men have my sincerest thanks for their cheerful cooperation on the field of Thompson's Hill.

M. M. SPIEGEL,
Colonel, Commanding.

General T. T. GARRARD,
Commanding First Brigade.

No. 6.

Report of Col. Lionel A. Sheldon, Forty-second Ohio Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE,
May 3, 1863.

SIR: The following report will show the part taken by the Second Brigade in the battle of the 1st instant:

A few minutes after sunrise, the brigade moved from its place of bivouac to the top of the hill, the Fifty-fourth Indiana remaining to come up with the First Wisconsin Battery. At about 7.30 a. m. the Sixteenth, Forty-second, and One hundred and fourteenth Ohio and Twenty-second Kentucky were formed in line of battle, by battalion in mass, in rear of Lanphere's battery, and remained for half an hour under the artillery fire of the enemy, which did but slight damage, however. In the mean time the Fifty-fourth Indiana came up, and was placed in support of one section of the First Wisconsin Battery, opposite the enemy's center.

At about 8 o'clock, the Sixteenth and Twenty-second were ordered to the center, to meet any movement in that quarter. They advanced to the woods and formed line of battle, and two companies were deployed as skirmishers and advanced into the woods. No enemy appeared, and the regiments, pursuant to General Osterhaus' order, were moved to the left. The Fifty-fourth Indiana was ordered to the right by General McClernand, and during the day co-operated with the troops of General Smith's division. No casualties happened to the regiment during the battle.

At 8 o'clock, the Forty-second Ohio was ordered to the front, and made an attack on the enemy at the house, advancing over an open and exposed piece of ground in very gallant style, receiving a severe fire from the enemy.

At about 11 o'clock, the Sixteenth and Twenty-second were formed in line on the left of the Forty-second. Two companies of skirmishers were thrown forward to the brow of the hill, keeping up for one-half hour a well-directed fire upon the enemy. At the expiration of this time, an advance of the three regiments was ordered. The order was obeyed in very splendid order. The Sixteenth and Twenty-second, obliquing to the left, entered the ravine on the front and left of the enemy's position, and advanced under cover very near the enemy, and maintained their position until near night, doing considerable damage to the enemy by the continuous and well-directed fire they kept up. The Forty-second Ohio advanced directly to the front in beautiful line on the double-quick to the edge of the ravine, and then opened on the enemy a heavy fire. It was soon discovered that the Sixty-ninth Indiana was posted in front in the ravine, a fact before not understood by me. Lieutenant-Colonel Pardee reporting the fact to me, I took the responsibility to order him to retire. The regiment was then retired and moved farther to the right, where it continued in the battle, relieving the Sixty-ninth Indiana and occupying the front until the enemy retired. Three companies, under command of Major Williams, were among the first to enter the enemy's position on the right, and joined in the pursuit for some distance, capturing several prisoners.

The One hundred and fourteenth Ohio at about 9 o'clock was ordered to take a position in support of Foster's battery, and remained in that position until about 4 p. m., when it was ordered forward, and participated in the charge on the left center, and was the first in the enemy's

position, pursuing the enemy 3 miles and capturing many prisoners. The charge made by it was in a very gallant manner.

Capt. E. W. Botsford, commanding Sixteenth Ohio; Major Worthington, commanding Twenty-second Kentucky; Lieutenant-Colonel Pardee, commanding Forty-second Ohio, and Lieutenant-Colonel Kelly, commanding One hundred and fourteenth Ohio, all behaved ably and gallantly. It is but just to say that all of the officers and men, without distinction, bore themselves with remarkable coolness and courage.

The officers in the brigade injured were 10 in all, 9 from the Forty-second Ohio and 1 from the Twenty-second Kentucky—First Lieutenant Robb slightly, Capt. M. L. Benham and First Lieut. E. B. Campbell severely, First Lieuts. C. P. Goodwin and J. R. Helman slightly, Second Lieut. H. C. Jennings dangerously, Second Lieuts. William L. Wilson, C. E. Henry, and Peter Miller slightly. One only killed—Capt. W. W. Olds, of the Forty-second Ohio. He was an accomplished, patriotic, and brave young man. Complete lists of the killed and wounded are herewith transmitted.* None are missing. Total casualties, 15 killed and 66 wounded.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

L. A. SHELDON,
Colonel, Commanding Second Brigade.

Capt. J. W. THOMPSON, *A. A. A. G., Ninth Division.*

No. 7.

Report of Capt. Charles H. Lanphere, Seventh Michigan Battery.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTH MICHIGAN BATTERY,
Port Gibson, Miss., May 2, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Seventh Michigan Battery in the engagement of yesterday:

About 7.30 a. m. I took a position immediately in front of and about 1¼ miles from the enemy's battery, and opened fire. For two and a half hours my battery was worked here under a most galling fire from the enemy's artillery, their guns being worked with great skill. At this point I had 2 men killed and 2 men wounded.

At 9.30 o'clock I advanced the battery 100 yards, taking a position 50 yards to the right of first position. Here the battery was less exposed. At 11 a. m. advanced three pieces 100 yards, taking a position 50 yards to the left of first position, from which point the guns were worked with great effect. At 11.30 a. m. advanced two of the pieces 100 yards to the right, but only put one piece in battery, where it was worked at intervals until about 3 p. m.

It affords me great pleasure to say that my officers and men behaved themselves with great gallantry.

There were 3 men killed and 3 wounded, and 7 horses killed and 4 disabled.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. H. LANPHERE,
Captain, Commanding Seventh Michigan Battery.

Capt. J. W. THOMPSON,
A. A. A. G., Ninth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.

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* Omitted.

No. 8.

Report of Lieut. Charles B. Kimball, First Wisconsin Battery.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST WISCONSIN BATTERY,
Port Gibson, Miss., May 2, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report below the part taken in yesterday's engagement on Thompson's Hill by the First Wisconsin Battery, which is as follows, viz:

The battery, under command of Lieut. Charles B. Kimball, after marching all night, received orders about 6 a. m. to move up rapidly to the front, and was placed in position in the following manner:

The right section of the battery, under charge of First Sergt. Edward P. Aylmer, was moved to the extreme left of the line, to relieve a section of Captain Lanphere's (Seventh Michigan) battery, which had suffered severely from the fire of two brass pieces of the enemy, planted on an opposite hill, about 1¼ miles distant, which we dismounted shortly afterward. This position it occupied all day, with slight changes to the right or left, as occasion required.

The center section, commanded by Lieut. E. L. Hackett, moved up to a position on the left of the right section, and opened fire on some buildings immediately to the front, occupied by rebel forces, where it did fearful execution. It occupied this position all day, and late in the afternoon shared with the right section the satisfaction of silencing two guns which the enemy brought to bear upon us with great effect from an open field, about a mile off. This was the closing scene of the engagement.

The left section, under command of Lieut. Oscar F. Nutting, took position on the center of the line, but was ordered by General Grant to reserve their fire until further orders were received from himself, as our supply of ammunition was very limited. This position it held all day under a galling fire of musketry, which, as ordered, it was compelled to face in silence.

Each section was planted under a galling fire, which was kept up throughout the day. Both men and officers did their duty nobly, and although our numbers were small for 20-pounder guns, and the men greatly fatigued after marching all the previous night, not a complaint was heard, but each man sprang to his work with a right good will, forgetful of their weariness in their desire each to do his duty.

Casualties, 4 men wounded.

Hoping that our future engagements will be crowned with equal success, I have the honor to remain, captain, your obedient servant,

CHAS. B. KIMBALL,
First Lieutenant, Commanding First Wisconsin Battery.

Capt. J. W. THOMPSON, *A. A. A. G., Ninth Div., Thirteenth A. C.*

No. 9.

Report of Col. Theodore E. Buehler, Sixty-seventh Indiana Infantry, First Brigade, Tenth Division, including operations April 14–May 22.

CAMP, IN THE FIELD, SIEGE OF VICKSBURG, MISS.,
May 25, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to submit the following report of the movements of the Sixty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry

since the same left Milliken's Bend, La., on Tuesday, April 14, as also of the part taken by this regiment in the battles on Magnolia Hills, Midway, Black River, and in the siege of Vicksburg, Miss., to the present date:

The Sixty-seventh Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, as part of your brigade, under my command, left Milliken's Bend, La., at 3 p. m. on Tuesday, April 14, numbering 360 men, rank and file, marching a distance of 4 miles, to Berklin's plantation.

Starting again at daylight on the 15th, we reached Holmes' plantation, a distance of about 20 miles from the Bend, at 5 p. m., where we encamped until the 24th, drilling and preparing for active compaign. At 8 p. m. we left for Smith's plantation, a distance of about 6 miles, from where, on the 26th, we embarked on the transport Empire City, running down the bayou into the Mississippi River, arriving at Perkins' plantation, La., the same night at 9 o'clock, during a severe storm.

On the 28th, at 9 a. m., leaving all transportation behind, we went on board a hay barge, towed by the transport Silver Wave, to a point in Hard Times Bend, La., opposite Grand Gulf. Remained on board the barge in about 7 inches of stinking water, and keeping the pumps steady at work to keep the barge from filling, until after the unsuccessful attempt of our gunboats to silence the rebel batteries at the Gulf on the 29th, when we disembarked about 4 p. m., marching 3 miles across the Bend to a point below the Gulf, encamping for the night.

On the 30th, after mustering the regiment, re-embarked at 2 p. m. on the gunboat Carondelet for Bruinsburg, Miss., and being supplied here with six days' (two-thirds) rations, we took up the line of march, with the Sixteenth Indiana, Eighty-third Ohio, and Twenty-third Wisconsin Regiments and Seventeenth Ohio Battery, of your brigade, at about 11 p. m. for Port Gibson, Miss.

Marching steadily all night, the regiment arrived at the field of action by 8 a. m. May 1, and formed line of battle immediately in rear of and supporting part of the division of General A. P. Hovey, my right resting on the Eighty-third Ohio, my left near the road leading to Port Gibson. Company A, of my regiment, was deployed forward as skirmishers. The Second Brigade, Colonel Landram commanding, arrived on the field shortly afterward. I changed position to the right, a rather uncomfortable place, the balls whizzing in unpleasant proximity to our ears, yet I am pleased to state no one was hurt while here.

At about 10 o'clock, the rebels having been dislodged from their first position, I was ordered to follow our advancing columns, and, marching my regiment by the left flank to the front for a mile or more, we passed across the battle-field of a few hours previous and re-established line of battle as before in rear of the advance column of General Hovey, the Sixty-seventh Indiana on the right of the brigade. Here we remained until 1 p. m., when I received orders to move the regiment on the double-quick to the extreme right of the corps. This order was executed in admirable style, though a number of officers and men had sunk by the road-side, perfectly exhausted and overcome by the excessive heat of the day. By far the largest number of men composing the regiment arrived promptly, and formed in line of battle long in advance of the other regiments of the brigade, the Sixty-seventh again forming on the right of the brigade, the left resting on the Sixteenth Indiana. Captain Blount's battery had opened fire on the woods and hills in our front. We remained inactive for a short time, when again orders were received to march my regiment to the left, and, together with the Sixteenth Indiana and Eighty-third Ohio, relieve three regiments of Colo-

nel Landram's brigade, then holding the advance on the road leading to Port Gibson.

The Sixty-seventh Indiana, again taking the lead, countermarched by the right flank, and, marching about 2 miles to the left of our former position, relieved the Ninety-seventh Illinois Regiment, forming on the left of the brigade, the right resting on the Eighty-third Ohio, fronting a hill densely covered with cane and briars. From here I advanced three companies of skirmishers to the brow of the hill in front and to the left, ordering the other companies to rest in place from their fatiguing marches. The companies deployed were F, D, and I, and I was instructed to be ready to charge up the hill at the signal of cheering on my left, when at once my skirmishers became hotly engaged with the enemy, and, under a heavy fire of musketry and artillery, Companies D and I, after maintaining their ground bravely, and contesting it inch by inch, commenced falling back, sending me word that they would need support. At the same time, without waiting orders, a portion of my regiment and the Eighty-third Ohio Regiment had opened a fire on the brow of the hill, thus exposing my skirmishers in front of my right wing to a cross-fire, so I immediately asked and obtained your permission to charge up the hill for the relief of my skirmishers, with the promise to be supported. I immediately gave the order for the charge, and am proud to state that, though exposed to the fire of the rebels while forming the line, the Sixty-seventh fulfilled their duty nobly, and, charging up the hill in gallant style, we had the satisfaction of seeing the rebels running down the hill through the thickest underbrush in every direction, leaving 2 of their dead and a number of prisoners in our hands.

Finding my regiment very much exposed to the fire from a rebel battery on our left, which wounded 2 men of Company B at the first fire, I ordered my men to lie down, and deployed Company C as skirmishers to the front. Meanwhile the One hundred and thirtieth Regiment Illinois Volunteers had arrived for my support, but one of our batteries having opened a fire of shot and shell on the valley in front of us, I dispatched a messenger for further orders, when, soon afterward, I received instruction to withdraw the regiment down the hill and rest for the night. Calling in my skirmishers, I marched to the rear by the right flank, heavily annoyed by the rebel shells, yet fortunate enough to have no more wounded. We encamped for the night in rear of and supporting Captain Blount's (Seventeenth Ohio) battery, which kept up firing at the rebel battery on the Port Gibson road until after sunset. There were 5 men wounded in this day's fight.

Before daylight on May 2, the regiment was ordered to fall in line again, in order to advance on the hill occupied by the rebel battery on the Port Gibson road the night previous. We were promptly in line, the right resting on the Eighty-third Ohio, our left on the Twenty-third Wisconsin Regiment; Companies B and G, of the Sixty-seventh Indiana, deployed in my front as skirmishers, and at 6 a. m. we took up line of march toward Port Gibson as the advance column of our forces. Meeting with no opposition, and finding arms and clothing scattered in every direction, it soon became evident that the rebels had left for a healthier clime.

We reached the town about 10 a. m., the Sixty-seventh Indiana being the third regiment in the place, following the Eighty-third Ohio. Company G, of the regiment, Second Lieut. George T. Polson commanding, had entered the town, though, as skirmishers long in advance of any other troops.

After a few moments' rest, the Sixty-seventh Indiana again pushed ahead to the bridge across Bayou Pierre, which had been set on fire by the rebels, and on reaching it were saluted by a few shots from rebel pickets on the other side, which passed harmlessly over our heads. We were ordered to save the bridge from entire destruction, and though my brave boys had worked harder, marched more, and rested less than any in the brigade, they went to work cheerfully, until, after a few hours of futile labor, they were ordered to desist, and enjoyed a few hours of undisturbed rest, conscious that they had done their whole duty, to a man.

Soon after daylight on the 3d instant, I again received orders to form the regiment, march thence to the court-house, and wait for the rest of the brigade, as there was indication of the enemy moving to our rear. Here the Sixty-seventh was again ordered to take the lead, and, marching about 1½ miles to the rear of town, we formed line of battle, my regiment on the left of the brigade and Companies A and H skirmishing.

After waiting here in vain for the rebels, we countermarched, the Sixty-seventh having the advance, and, passing through Port Gibson and across the bridge, we marched during the day, under excessive heat, 8 miles to Willow Springs, going into camp here at 6 p. m.

Here we left on the 7th instant, marching about 11 miles to a point beyond Rocky Springs, where we rested until the 9th, when, at 3 p. m., we marched 3 miles farther north, encamping on Big Sand Creek.

We started from here on the 10th about 1 p. m., marching to Cayuga, Miss., where, resting on the 11th, General Sherman's *corps d'armée* passed us.

At daylight on the 12th, we were ordered to countermarch, and arriving at Cayuga, taking a road leading in a westerly direction, we marched about 10 miles, encamping for the night in line of battle near Fourteen-Mile Creek, and within 6 miles of Edwards Station, on the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad, where the rebels were reported in heavy force.

Next morning (13th), at 8 o'clock, we again received marching orders, and, following the Eighty-third Ohio Regiment, we marched about 6 miles to the Jackson road, where, meeting the train of our division, we for the first time prided ourselves in the prospect of a change of linen since we left Smith's plantation, La., on April 24. Here we rested during the 14th.

On the 15th, we marched to Raymond, Miss., following General Blair's division a distance of about 15 miles, arriving at about 9 p. m.

At daylight of the 16th, we started for Edwards Station, on the Jackson and Vicksburg road; marched about 4 miles, when heavy firing on our right indicated the close proximity of rebel forces. We were ordered in line of battle on the left of the road, my right resting on the left of the Eighty-third Ohio at right angles, Company A deployed as skirmishers on the left of the brigade.

From here the regiment advanced by the right flank with the Eighty-third Ohio, and reformed forward into line as soon as the ground would admit of the formation, marching about 1 mile in line of battle, our skirmishers driving the rebels before them, when a battery opening on our right flank, and rebels being visible in strong force marching toward our left, we were ordered back a short distance, selecting a very advantageous position.

After some delay we again advanced in line of battle in the same order for about 2 miles, when all at once a battery opened fire on us with grape, canister, and shell while ascending a hill of some eminence. We were fortunately protected by a cut in a road in front of us at this

moment, and the balls mostly passed harmlessly over our heads. For about three hours four pieces of artillery belched forth their iron messengers of death with the utmost rapidity, while my skirmishers reported them supported by about eleven regiments of infantry, hence outnumbering us ten to one.

My skirmishers, Company H, under direction of Capt. David Kelly, had held their ground bravely, but, having several men wounded, I reenforced them by Company E, which harassed them [the enemy] exceedingly, after driving their cannoneers from their pieces and keeping them back, while the ground in front of us was such that the rebels could not advance skirmishers without exposing them to the unerring aim of my men. Later I relieved Company H by Company K, and the firing having ceased about dark, we were ordered to sleep on our arms, the pickets but about 50 yards in front of us, my right resting on the Seventeenth Ohio Battery.

My loss in this day's engagement was 5 men wounded, while a large number of prisoners were taken by my regiment, Captain Kelly bringing in 13 at one time, who were cut off by our rapid advance. The Sixty-seventh Regiment here again held the left of the brigade, supported by the Twenty-third Wisconsin.

On the 17th, at daylight, we again advanced in line of battle, well protected by skirmishers, but soon found that the rebels had skedaddled in a perfect panic, throwing away their guns and accouterments; in fact, leaving their battery behind. We passed undisturbed through Edwards Station, marching by the right flank, the Sixty-seventh Indiana in rear of the battery, gathering up quite a number of prisoners as we proceeded.

Arriving within about 3 miles of Black River Bridge, I again received orders to form my regiment in line of battle on the left of the Eighty-third Ohio, the Twenty-third Wisconsin Regiment supporting, deploying Company A as skirmishers to the front. We advanced by the right oblique through brush and bayous, over fences and hedges, at a rapid rate, and though many of my men had not had a bite to eat since the previous night, marched and fought with their knapsacks through the oppressive heat the day previous, and two companies had been kept vigilant all night on picket, at this moment, in sight of the rebel breastworks at Black River, all fatigue was forgotten, and, with a shout unequaled, forward we went on the double-quick, over plowed fields and across bayous, to receive the surrender of the Sixtieth Tennessee (rebel) Regiment. The flag of the Sixty-seventh was the first on the breastworks. From this point, marching up Black River by the right flank for about 1 mile, we reached Black River Bridge, resting here for the remainder of the day, until the bridges could be completed.

On the 18th, at 11 a. m., we crossed the river, your brigade taking the extreme advance, my regiment following the Seventeenth Ohio Battery, and marching by the right flank on the Jackson road toward Vicksburg, encamping for the night, on our arms, within 2 miles of the rebel works in rear of Vicksburg.

At daylight on the 19th, we advanced by the right flank to within a mile of the forts, when I was ordered to form line of battle on the left of the brigade. In this position we advanced to within 500 yards of the forts, skirmishing as we proceeded. The Sixty-seventh Indiana, advancing on the Jackson road, all at once found itself saluted by a shell and a volley of musketry from the breastworks just when the left wing of the regiment was separated from the right by a burning building, set on fire by the rebels early in the morning. A few steps more and my regiment must have been exposed to the enfilading fire of four

different forts. I immediately ordered my regiment to lie down behind the brow of the hill which we had been ascending, and all escaped unhurt.

Being in advance of the other regiments of your brigade, which had halted prior to the first volley being fired at us, and finding that my right wing was unnecessarily exposed to the fire of rebel sharpshooters, I ordered them some 20 yards to the rear just in time to avoid another volley of musketry from the front and left. This position I occupied with my regiment for the rest of the day, and on the morning of the 20th, my men advanced carefully to the brow of the hill and behind the chimneys of the burned buildings in our front, sending balls wherever a head would show itself above the breastworks. At one time a chimney was tumbled over them by a solid shot from a rebel battery. Nothing daunted, though almost buried in its ruins, they crawled to the next one, and again commenced their firing.

During the night of the 19th, I advanced two companies of skirmishers to within about 300 yards of the main fort, and the rest of the regiment rested on their arms several hundred yards in advance of the other regiments of the division.

On the 20th, about 11 a. m., I received your orders to prepare to advance, and formed the companies immediately, preparatory to the movement. For the first time since I had the honor of serving my country, I felt the heavy responsibility resting on my shoulders as a commander; that the lives of hundreds, perhaps, hung on my order then and there to be given. I knew my duty and was determined to execute it at the risk of my own life; but how about others? I had carefully examined my position, and was convinced that a direct advance was impossible without charging and storming the fort, while to do the latter I must have had support on my right and left, or should have been exposed to a cross-fire of four different forts. My regiment, to some extent, formed the center of the division, being on the right and left of the Jackson road. Ascending over the hill that now protected my men, I was exposed to the aforesaid fire of the enemy, unable to find shelter for them anywhere this side of the forts, particularly for my left wing. All the other regiments of the whole division could have advanced by but little exposure in charging over the hill or ridge then in their front, finding protection immediately beyond them in a ravine, protected by another range of hills centering at the one I then occupied.

My regiment had advanced to a position justifying them in remaining, for if all the other regiments had advanced into the next ravine they would have been but on a line with me, and no nearer the forts than the Sixty-seventh was at that time. I represented the case to you, general, requesting that if my order was positive to advance, to have the proper support on my right and left. You informed me that the order was for the whole division to advance, and I should be well supported.

Returning to my regiment, I immediately advanced to the brow of the hill, ready to go over first as soon as the order should be given; but finding that the Eighty-third Ohio Regiment, which was to support my right, had returned to the rear several hundred yards, and having your order to advance with the Second Brigade, I at once took advantage of the opportunity, and marching my right wing to the right oblique across the hill, ere the rebels could be prepared for us I advanced them to a safe position within 250 yards of the fort. Returning again for my left wing, I detached three companies, leading them over the hill in the same manner, on the right, and leaving two companies in the rear to advance with the Second Brigade (Nineteenth Kentucky Regi-

ment), which had formed its line on my immediate left. The Second Brigade, instead of advancing, sent one company of skirmishers to the front. The Eighty-third Ohio, on my right, also sent five companies of skirmishers to support my right. I had formed my regiment, without any serious loss, within about 250 yards of the fort, and my men were doing excellent execution in keeping the rebel sharpshooters and artillerists well behind their intrenchments. A few hours later General Benton's brigade came to my support, and, forming in my rear about 100 yards, I had the satisfaction of seeing my regiment relieved by two companies of the Ninety-ninth Illinois Regiment. Returning to the rear at about 2 a. m. on the 21st instant, rested during that day.

On the 22d, at 8 a. m., I received your orders to prepare for a charge on the rebel forts at 10 a. m., General Benton's brigade to take the advance, our brigade to support and assist him. I formed my line of battle a little to the right of my position of the 19th, in rear of the chimneys already mentioned, supported by the Twenty-third Wisconsin Regiment; the Eighty-third, which was to have formed on my right, more than 100 yards below, in a ravine. At the proper hour General Benton's brigade charging, I advanced my regiment with terrific cheering across the hill in front of me, and up to the brow of the next hill, where I was ordered by the right flank forward, following the Eighty-third Ohio and Sixteenth Indiana Regiments through a ravine to the front, marching some 150 yards, when you ordered me to the right on the double-quick, to protect the charging column from a flanking fire on that side. I immediately faced my regiment about, and, left in front, filing to the left, I ascended a hill on your immediate right. Checked for but a moment by a heavy fire of musketry in our progress, we pushed forward, and selecting safe positions for my men, I immediately ordered them to fire by the rear rank, soon silencing the fire in front and on our right.

Shortly afterward I was re-enforced by the Eighty-third Ohio, which I directed to form on my left, and some companies of the Twenty-third Wisconsin, which did excellent service on my right, and soon not a rebel would show the tip of his finger above the fort. Yet, unfortunately, I received orders to withdraw my regiment and also the Twenty-third Wisconsin for the support of our Second Brigade, on the left of the Jackson road. Marching down the hill by the right flank, I had hardly proceeded a hundred steps up the ravine when a shower of balls hailed over our heads, sent after us from the forts we had silenced; yet we had our orders, and on we went until, close to our destination, we were ordered back to our former position. My men went to work again with their old ardor, but the rebels had got bold, and not being supported on my left, as I should have been, we were exposed to a damaging cross-fire, losing several of our best men. For about three hours the musketry fire, interspersed with grape, raged incessantly across the hill, when at last the Fifty-ninth Indiana, Colonel Alexander commanding, came to my support. I cannot speak in too high terms of his regiment. They occupied the position of the Eighty-third Ohio Regiment, and though losing about 50 men in less than half an hour by exposing themselves too much, I think it is to a great extent owing to their assistance and bravery that our retreat and that of other regiments on our left was not entirely cut off, for twice, once on our right and once on our left, carrying the Stars and Bars with them, the rebels attempted a charge, but were repulsed instantly. At about dusk, Colonel Alexander informed me that he had orders from his brigade commander to withdraw his regiment as quickly as possible.

The rebels were still firing heavily, and, knowing my inability to hold the place without support, my guns in no fit condition for loading, some of my men having fired over 200 cartridges, I requested of Colonel Alexander the favor of remaining for a short time until I could secure support or relief. I hastened back, and received your orders to withdraw my regiment, skirmishing. Finding it was the last to leave the field, I gathered all the stragglers in my reach, and having the wounded carried off in front of me, the Sixty-seventh, considerably weakened in numbers, reached their old camping ground of the 20th, once more to enjoy a night's rest after the hardest day's work any of us have ever witnessed or been subjected to.

The casualties in my regiment on this day, out of 230 men, rank and file, were 6 killed and 40 wounded; yet I am happy to state that of the wounded but one is pronounced beyond recovery.

Where all officers and men acted with most unquestionable bravery, I should abstain from singling out instances of particular merit; yet I cannot avoid to mention Capt. G. R. Sims, of Company D, who, constantly leading his men where the most danger threatened, had 14 of his men wounded out of 20 he took into the fight. But officers and men of the regiment deserve praise for the bravery displayed, their indefatigable perseverance and endurance without a murmur, their coolness in the most trying hour of danger, and their strict attention to my orders. Quite a number, though wounded, continued on the field, rendering all the assistance in their power, and by their example cheered others to renewed action.

All my officers were at their proper posts, and rendered efficient service in encouraging their men when hard pressed; they could not have acted better. My adjutant, Lieut. William T. Days, discharged his duties with bravery and dispatch, and is deserving of my especial thanks for his zeal.

I am, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THEODORE E. BUEHLER,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Sixty-seventh Regt. Indiana Vol. Infty.

Brig. Gen. S. G. BURBRIDGE.

No. 10.

Report of Col. Friend S. Rutherford, Ninety-seventh Illinois Infantry, Second Brigade.

PORT GIBSON, MISS., *May* 2, 1863.

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part this regiment took in the battle of Port Gibson and the march thereto:

In pursuance of orders, this regiment took up its line of march in rear of the Seventeenth Ohio Battery from Bruinsburg Landing at midnight of April 30, on the road to Port Gibson. From the best information I am able to obtain, the distance marched was 18 miles. When we had made the distance of 15 miles, I received an order from your adjutant to move forward with a double-quick.

We arrived on the battle-ground at 8.30 o'clock May 1, falling into line of battle on the right of the road and on the left of the First Brigade, on the top of a ridge running at right angles with the road. We had occupied this position some ten or fifteen minutes, when I received an

order from your aide to take an advanced position on the left of the road. While proceeding to obey the orders, I was informed by Adjutant Tracy that I was at liberty to act at my discretion to go to the front if I chose. This proposition met with a hearty response from my men of, "To the front; to the front!" I received orders from General McClernand in person to take the extreme left, and move forward in line of battle. I need not recount to you, who was on the field of battle, the difficulties and dangers of pressing upon the enemy through the ravines and canebrakes and over the hills, where the battle of Port Gibson, or rather Magnolia Hills, was fought.

I may be permitted to say, on behalf of my officers and men, that their endurance, indomitable labors, and patience under suffering can be exceeded by no body of troops. During the day my regiment occupied a prominent position upon the battle-field, and by your orders withdrew to rest for the night when it was no longer light enough to continue the contest.

The casualties in my command were very light (being 6 wounded, none killed), considering that we were so much exposed to the enemy's fire. Near the close of the day we were exposed to the enemy's battery of two guns (not to exceed 300 yards distance) for some twenty minutes.

It would be futile to discriminate in giving praise to the officers and men of my command during the engagement; every one did his duty faithfully. Lieutenant Martin, though just from a severe attack of illness, was on active duty the whole day; Major Vifquain was also present, and showed his usual energy and bravery. Both these officers were under your observation, and I need not recount to you their conduct.

On the morning of May 2, in pursuance of orders received the previous night, my command was ready to fall in at daylight. At about 7 a. m. we were ordered to take the extreme left, and support the Twenty-third Wisconsin, of General Burbridge's brigade. We formed, and marched in line of battle until we reached the bottom of the valley, immediately in front of the previous day's battle-field, on the left of the road leading to Port Gibson. Here a halt was made until skirmishers of the Twenty-third Wisconsin ascertained that the enemy had retreated in the night, when my command filed into the road by the left flank, and marched into the town of Port Gibson, this regiment being the second into town, the Twenty-third Wisconsin being the first, where we halted for the day.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. S. RUTHERFORD,
Colonel, Commanding Ninety-seventh Regiment Illinois Volunteers.

Col. W. J. LANDRAM,
Comdg. 2d Brig., 10th Div., 13th Army Corps, Army of the Tenn.

No. 11.

Report of Brig. Gen. Alvin P. Hovey, U. S. Army, commanding Twelfth Division, including operations since April 14.

HDQRS. TWELFTH DIV., THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Field, May 8, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report, commencing with the landing of the Twelfth Division at Milliken's Bend

on the 14th of April, and terminating with the battle of Port Gibson, on the 1st day of May:

Marching over heavy roads from the Bend on the 16th, under orders to leave our camp and garrison equipage behind, we arrived at Dawson's farm, on the Roundaway Bayou, on the second day.

On the 18th, marched to the mouth of Gilbert's Bayou, with directions to make a reconnaissance in the direction of the Mississippi River, and ascertain whether a practicable route could be found. Descending the bayou, I met General Osterhaus coming up from the river on the same business, and on comparing notes the route was deemed practicable, and so reported to Major-General McClernand.

In four days from that date my division, with the aid of Captain Patterson's pioneers, built four bridges over about 1,000 feet of water and cut 2 miles of road through the woods, thus opening up the great military route through the overflowed lands from Milliken's Bend to the Mississippi River below Vicksburg. During this severe task many of my men worked for hours up to their necks in water, and I take this occasion to thank them for the devotion and energy there displayed. To Capt. George W. Jackson, Thirty-fourth Indiana, and his pioneer corps, praise is particularly due for the performance of this herculean task.

On the 28th, we embarked on steamers for the purpose of aiding in the attack on Grand Gulf, and on the 29th witnessed the brilliant assault by the gunboats upon that place.

As it was supposed at the time that a battle would take place at Grand Gulf, the horses of all officers, except those commanding divisions, and all kinds of transportation, were left behind. Subsequent events made this very onerous upon the officers and upon the command.

On the 30th, we again disembarked at Bruinsburg Landing, Miss., below Grand Gulf, and at 3 p. m. took up our line of march for Port Gibson, the order of march by divisions being Carr's (Fourteenth), Osterhaus' (Ninth), Hovey's (Twelfth), Smith's (Tenth).

The organization of the Twelfth Division at that time was—

First Brigade, General George F. McGinnis commanding.—The Twenty-fourth Indiana, commanded by Col. W. T. Spicely; Forty-sixth Indiana, commanded by Col. T. H. Bringhurst; Eleventh Indiana, commanded by Col. Daniel Macauley; Twenty-ninth Wisconsin, commanded by Col. Charles R. Gill; Thirty-fourth Indiana, commanded by Col. R. A. Cameron; Sixteenth Ohio Battery, commanded by Capt. J. A. Mitchell; Second Ohio Battery, commanded by First Lieut. Aug. Beach.

Second Brigade, Col. James R. Slack commanding.—The Twenty-fourth Iowa, commanded by Col. E. C. Byam; Twenty-eighth Iowa, commanded by Col. John Connell; Fifty-sixth Ohio, commanded by Lieut. Col. W. H. Raynor; Forty-seventh Indiana, commanded by Lieut. Col. J. A. McLaughlin; First Missouri Battery, commanded by Captain Schofield; Peoria Light Artillery, commanded by Second Lieutenant Fenton.

We continued our march through the night. Near 2 o'clock in the morning of May 1, cannonading was heard in our front, which continued for several minutes. The column pressed forward, and at daylight reached Center Creek, about 3 miles west of Port Gibson.

At this point, at 5.30 a. m., my division was ordered to take position a few hundred yards in advance, upon the right of the road, on the crest of two hills nearly opposite the Shafer farm-house, at that time the

headquarters of Major-General McClernand. The First Brigade occupied the position in front nearest the enemy's line and at right angles to the road, and the Second Brigade on a similar ridge in the rear of the First Brigade.

The lines of each brigade were formed under fire from the enemy, who were being engaged by Brigadier-General Benton, to my left and near the center of the line of battle.

At this juncture I received orders from Major-General McClernand to hold my division as a reserve until the arrival of the Tenth Division, commanded by Brigadier-General Smith, at which time my whole command was to be in readiness to take part in the action.

On receiving this command, I ordered my division to lie down under the cover of the brows of the hills. In less than thirty minutes afterward, General Smith arrived, and the fact was announced to the major-general commanding. In the mean time the brigade under General Benton was engaged in a severe conflict with the enemy upon our left, and gallantly resisting almost overwhelming numbers.

About 7 a. m. an aide from Major-General McClernand came rapidly forward, with orders directing me without the least delay to support General Benton's line. I immediately ordered Brigadier-General McGinnis to march the infantry of the First Brigade in line of battle across a deep and rugged ravine to his support. All concur in describing this ravine as being about 40 rods wide, and filled with vines, cane, deep gulches, and exceedingly difficult of passage. The enemy, no doubt, regarded it as impassable.

As soon as the First Brigade had commenced moving, I ordered the Second Brigade, Colonel Slack commanding, to march by the right flank around the head of the ravine, in support of the forces engaged in the center. They reached their proper position, in line of the division, beyond the ravine, about the same time the left of the First Brigade arrived, the right of the First Brigade being still engaged in working through the tangled vines and underbrush of the ravine. As I rode down the road toward the front and middle of my line, I met Captain Klauss, First Indiana Battery, who had been gallantly fighting the rebel batteries; the field around him and one disabled gun testified to the nature of the conflict. He at once pointed out the position of the rebel battery, the guns of which, with a line of rebel heads in their rear, were plainly visible. I immediately rode down, under cover of the brow of the ravine, to the head of the Second Brigade, where Colonel Slack and Colonel Cameron, of the Thirty-fourth Indiana, were standing. Lieutenant-Colonel Raynor, of the Fifty-sixth Ohio, who had been supporting Captain Klauss' battery, here joined us. Here I attempted to communicate with General McGinnis, who was in the rear of his brigade, but the ground was impassable for my aides on horseback, and my voice could not be heard on account of the noise around him.

I pointed out the battery first to Colonel Cameron, and told him it must be taken. Colonel Slack claimed the honor for his command, but I settled the matter by directing Colonel Cameron, Thirty-fourth Indiana Regiment, to make the charge, and Lieutenant-Colonel Raynor, Fifty-sixth Ohio, to support it. I also directed Colonel Slack to hold his brigade ready to move forward at any instant. The distance of the rebel battery from the point of my attack could not have exceeded 150 yards.

Upon receiving the order to charge, Colonel Cameron commanded his battalion to leap the fence, which, with the Fifty-sixth Ohio, rushed, with loud shouts and fixed bayonets, toward the battery. Their advance was met with grape from the rebel battery and a shower of ball from

the rebel lines. The fire became intense and concentrated, and both regiments, to shield themselves, fell to the ground, while the fire continued for two or three minutes longer on both sides. At this juncture I gave the command "forward" as loud as I could, and had the gratification of seeing the Thirty-fourth and Fifty-sixth spring to their feet, and, with two companies of the Eleventh Indiana, which I knew by their dress, and several other companies from my division, which I could not then distinguish, rush forward to the charge.

Again the bright bayonets of the Twelfth Division were glittering in the sun; again a wild shout, a shout of triumph, reverberated through the hills. The enemy were beaten back, between 200 and 300 taken prisoners, and 1 stand of colors, 2 12-pounder howitzers, 3 caissons, and 3 six-mule teams, loaded with ammunition, was the reward of this chivalric action.

The particular men or companies who seized the colors, took the guns and turned them upon the enemy, surrounded and took the prisoners, I cannot tell, as in the hot contest of the moment nothing but momentary daguerrean sketches could have fixed the facts. One thing is certain, the honor of the charge belongs to the Twelfth Division. I gave the command, my men obeyed, and made the charge, manned the guns, discharged them at the enemy, took the prisoners, and have the battle-flag of the battery now in possession of the gallant Colonel Raynor. That other gallant men were there, after the inception of the charge, and sustained it, may be so, as officers and men of this corps are not only ready but more than willing to do their duty; but that any organized body of troops from any other division participated in the capture is, I think, contrary to the position of the corps at the time and the truth of history.

Immediately after the charge was made, several regiments formed on the same ridge in line of battle, and the wildest enthusiasm prevailed as Major-Generals Grant and McClernand rode down our lines. Generals Grant and McClernand commanded me to press the whole line forward immediately and drive the enemy from the field before they could be re-enforced. I gave the command to the brigades of my own division and to the gallant Col. William J. Landram, commanding the Second Brigade, Tenth Division, who, with my division, immediately marched across a ravine in the direction the enemy had taken. On reaching the plateau or ridge beyond, our line again received the enemy's fire from a long woody ravine which lay at the base of the ridge. Skirmishers at different points opened a fire upon the enemy for several minutes. Passing through a slight opening in this ravine, Colonel Slack formed the Forty-seventh Indiana and Fifty-sixth Ohio in line of battle and opened fire on the enemy. Being severely pressed, he was subsequently re-enforced by the Twenty-fourth Regiment Indiana Volunteers, Col. W. T. Spicely commanding, and Twenty-ninth Wisconsin, Colonel Gill, and, after a hot and spirited contest of one hour and a half with about equal numbers, they forced the enemy to retire before them. Here these gallant regiments met with severe loss.

During this contest, and when passing down our lines to the right, I met General McGinnis, who informed me that the enemy were moving on our right, with the probable intention of flanking us. He had previously sent to the right three companies of skirmishers from the Eleventh and Twenty-fourth Indiana and Colonel Cameron with the Thirty-fourth. As we passed down the line, my aide, Lieut. J. P. Pope, discovered a rebel battery moving in the same direction, supported by a large force of infantry, marching partly hidden by the woody ravine. I plainly

saw their heavy column advancing. In a few minutes the rebel battery opened on our lines, firing shell and shot from 24 and 12 pounder howitzers. The shell and shot picked up on the field demonstrated their caliber. As my infantry were already in close supporting distance, I massed my four batteries on the brow of the ridge, and concentrated their fire into the ravine in the direction of the rebel lines and battery.

The position of my guns and infantry at this time is shown by a sketch accompanying this report.* I am indebted to W. R. McComas, first lieutenant and aide on Major-General McClernand's staff, for the sketch and other similar favors.

The fire from my batteries was well directed and continued for over one hour, and drove the rebel battery and infantry from that part of the field. The honor of repulsing the enemy at this point unquestionably belongs to the batteries of the Twelfth Division, which have my sincere thanks for their efficient service during the day.

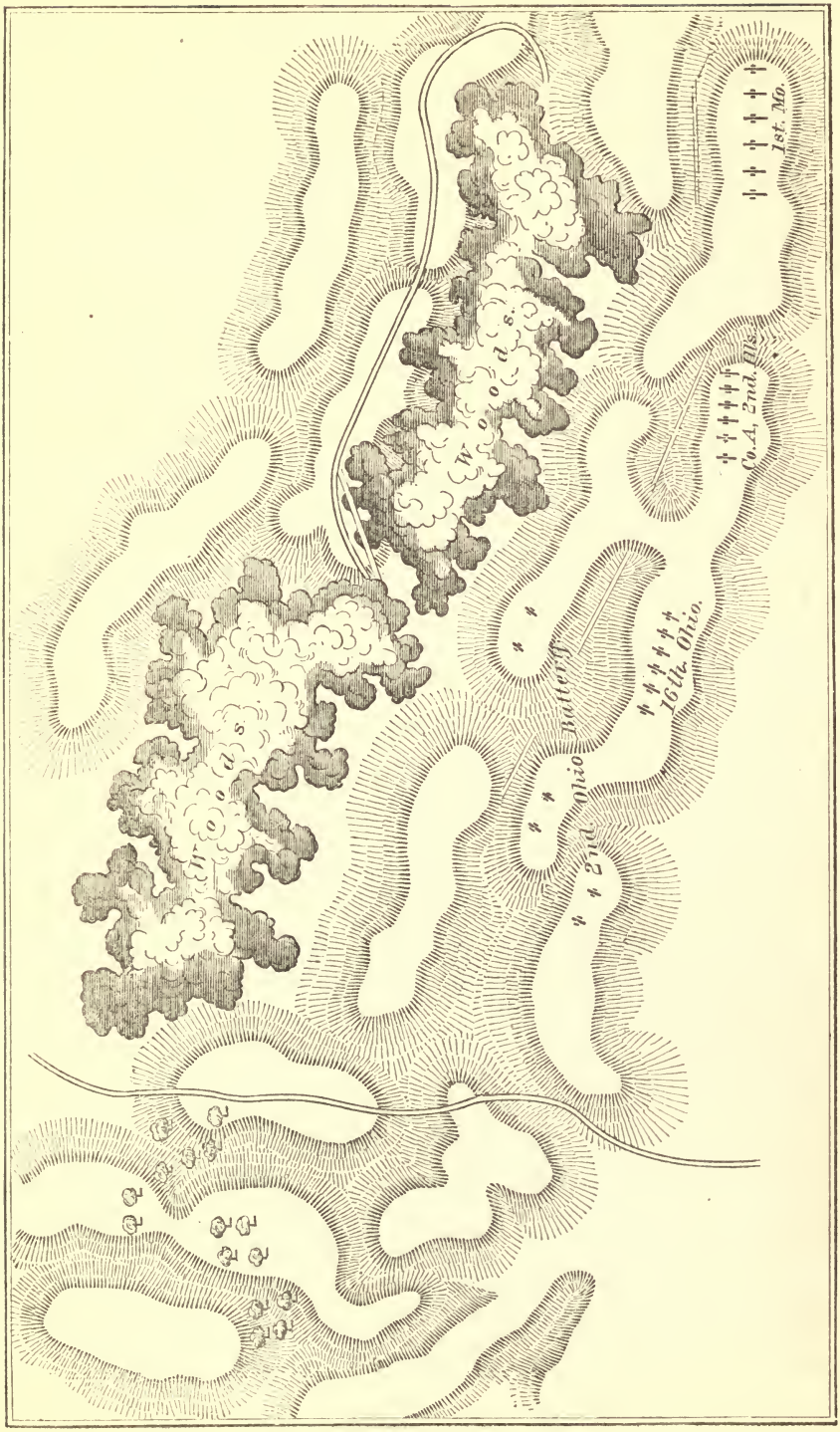
When the fire from the enemy ceased on the right, General McClernand sent orders to have two regiments move in line of battle from our right through the ravine in which the enemy had been concealed. Colonel Cameron, being on the extreme right at this time, was ordered, in conjunction with one regiment from General Smith's First Brigade, to perform this duty. The length of the ravine was nearly 1 mile, with its width ranging from a few yards to over 100. About equidistant from its ends is a narrow neck, through which the hills and ground beyond are plainly visible. To this neck the regiments last named marched in line of battle through the ravine, capturing several prisoners. Skirmishers from the Second Brigade continued firing for some time in the upper end of the ravine, above the neck, when the enemy abandoned this part of the field and fled. The firing continued at irregular intervals along the line for some time afterward, but the indications plainly proved that they were only covering a rapid retreat. Thus ended the battle of Port Gibson, and we slept upon the field 2 miles in advance of the morning's contest.

It will be impossible for me to particularize each movement of the respective regiments. Their special actions are clearly described in the reports of their commanders. I have no fault to find with any officer or private in my command. If any faltered I know it not. Each brigade was handled in a masterly manner, and too much praise cannot be bestowed on the veteran General McGinnis and the gallant Colonel Slack, who commanded them. Faithfully, nobly, and unfalteringly, they, with their officers and men, performed their full duty of thorough soldiers. Their country must thank and reward them.

Throughout the day, in the hottest of the hail, and on almost every part of the field where man or horse could go, Capt. John E. Phillips, assistant adjutant-general, and my aides, First Lieuts. John T. McQuiddy and Joseph P. Pope, were carrying orders and making observations. Their assistance was invaluable to me, and their services deserve the highest praise. George W. Bownell, private of Company C, First Indiana Cavalry, who acted as my mounted orderly, proved himself worthy of promotion for his fearless bearing and services throughout the day.

To Surg. Robert B. Jessup, medical director, and the medical corps who co-operated with him, the command is under great obligations for their services under the very trying difficulties which surrounded them. The sick and wounded have been thoroughly cared for, although no ambulance or medical wagon accompanied my division. The surgeons

* See opposite page.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16th. Ohio.
Battery
2nd. Ohio

carried all their medical stores on foot, and not only performed their whole duty by attending to the noble men who were wounded in my command, but, like the good Samaritan of other days, gave balm and bound up the wounds of suffering rebels by the wayside.

The prisoners taken by my command on the field of battle cannot fall short of 400.

My casualties, as shown by accompanying reports, are: Killed, 42; wounded, 263, and missing, 3. Total, 308.*

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

ALVIN P. HOVEY,
Brig. Gen., Comdg. Twelfth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps.

Lieut. Col. WALTER B. SCATES,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 12.

Report of Brig. Gen. George F. McGinnis, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, TWELFTH DIVISION,
THIRTEENTH ARMY CORPS, ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
In the Field, May 6, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the First Brigade in the battle of Port Gibson, Miss., on the 1st instant:

My brigade consisted of the following commands, viz:

The Eleventh Indiana Infantry, Col. Daniel Macauley, 519 men; Twenty-fourth Indiana Infantry, Col. W. T. Spicely, 546 men; Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry, Col. R. A. Cameron, 607 men; Forty-sixth Indiana Infantry, Col. T. H. Bringhurst, 423 men; Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry, Col. Charles R. Gill, 533 men; Second Ohio Battery, First Lieutenant Beach commanding, 100 men; Sixteenth Ohio Battery, Capt. J. A. Mitchell, commanding, 111 men. Total, 2,839.

About 7 a. m. I received an order from Brig. Gen. A. P. Hovey, commanding our division, to form my brigade in line of battle, holding two regiments in reserve. The order was immediately executed. My first line was composed of the Twenty-fourth, Thirty-fourth, and Forty-sixth Indiana; my second of the Eleventh Indiana and Twenty-ninth Wisconsin, with directions to hold themselves about 200 yards in the rear and act as support to the first line. One section of the Second Ohio Battery was all the artillery I had with my command at the commencement of the battle, in consequence of a lack of transportation upon our leaving Perkins' plantation, La. As soon as our lines were formed, we advanced about three-fourths of a mile over a surface of country which under any other circumstances would have been pronounced impassable. High hills, in many places almost perpendicular, deep ravines, thickly covered with cane and vines, interfered very much with our advance. After advancing about half a mile, at the request of General Benton, commanding First Brigade, Fourteenth Division, the Twenty-fourth Indiana Infantry was detached from my brigade for the purpose of supporting General Benton's right, which brought on the action, and had

* But see revised statement, p. 583.

been hotly engaged for some time. The Twenty-fourth moved up to its position in gallant style, and after a short but very sharp engagement the enemy retreated from that part of the field, upon which the Twenty-fourth rejoined the brigade. The balance of my brigade moved rapidly to the front, and were soon within range of a rebel battery, supported by a brigade of infantry. The Thirty-fourth Indiana, being in advance, was ordered by General Hovey to charge the battery. A gallant effort was made to execute the order, but such a fearfully destructive fire was poured upon them that Colonel Cameron, very properly and with much coolness and judgment, halted his command, and protected them from the enemy's fire behind the brow of the hill. At this juncture the Eleventh Indiana, which had been in reserve, moved to the front in double-quick, and as soon as a portion of its right was in line with the Thirty-fourth and left of the Forty-sixth Indiana, another gallant charge was made upon the battery, which was double-shotted and just upon the point of being fired. The gunners and horses were shot down, and the brigade in support turned their backs upon us and fled in confusion from the field.

The result of this gallant dash, in which the Thirty-fourth, Eleventh, and Forty-sixth Indiana participated, was the capture of 2 12-pounder howitzers, 3 caissons, 3 wagons loaded with ammunition, 3 stand of colors, several horses, and over 200 prisoners. Company K, of the Eleventh Indiana, was detailed to man the guns, who turned them upon the enemy and delivered a few effective shots.

After a short halt, to enable all to rest and procure water, I received an order from General Hovey for another advance. In this movement the Thirty-fourth and Forty-sixth Indiana were held in reserve within supporting distance of the first line. After advancing about 1 mile, we again met the enemy, who had been re-enforced, and were strongly posted on the opposite side of a deep ravine.

My command was immediately ordered forward to support the Second Brigade, Colonel Slack, and took up a position in the ravine and on the brow of the hill, and opened their fire upon the enemy. At this point the conflict was terrific, and was kept up without any intermission whatever for an hour and thirty-seven minutes, when the enemy, finding that they could not drive us from our position, retreated in dismay, and made no further resistance on that part of the field.

During this last engagement I received information that the rebels showed signs of an intention to attack and turn our right. I immediately directed Colonel Cameron, of the Thirty-fourth Indiana, to occupy and hold the hill to the right, and sent to his assistance one section of the Sixteenth Ohio Battery, and informed General Hovey of what I had done. A concentrated fire from sixteen guns of the division continued for over an hour, dislodging the enemy from their position and driving them from the field.

After this engagement had been continued for an hour, I received a message from Colonel Gill, of the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin, informing me that his regiment had suffered severely, and asking to be relieved for a short time. Having no regiment of my own command unemployed, I called upon General Benton for the required assistance, who generously tendered the services of the gallant Eighth Indiana, Colonel Shunk, and, although they were short of ammunition, they went in with a will and rendered the necessary relief, and fought gloriously and victoriously during the remainder of the engagement.

The Twenty-fourth Indiana and Twenty-ninth Wisconsin stood the

brunt of the engagement, occupying the front and most dangerous position. It was here that their heaviest loss occurred.

Owing to the nature of the ground over which we moved in the early part of the engagement, it was utterly impossible for the section of the Second Ohio Battery, commanded by Lieutenant Guthrie, to follow us. As soon, however, as he could get his guns in position, he opened upon the rebels and did gallant service during the day.

Two sections of the Second Ohio Battery, First Lieutenant Beach commanding, and the whole of the Sixteenth Ohio Battery, Captain Mitchell, which had been left at Perkins' plantation, for reasons before stated, arrived upon the battle-field about 10 a. m. They were immediately put to work, and did good service during the balance of the day.

The expressions of admiration of the manner in which the two batteries were handled—the precision and rapidity with which they fired—were frequent and well deserved. Officers and men are entitled to much praise for their good conduct.

At about 4 p. m. my brigade was again ordered to advance, in support of a brigade of General Smith's division. After advancing a short distance, we were ordered to halt, and soon after were ordered into position for the night.

When all—officers and men, and the different commands of my brigade—performed their whole duty, it would appear unjust to discriminate. I cannot refrain, however, from special mention of the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin, not that they fought longer and more gallantly than others—not that they are more brave or better disciplined—but that it is a new regiment, and this was the first time that they had been engaged with an enemy or that any of their men had ever been under fire. They fought like veterans, and suffered severely, as their report of casualties will show.

Captains Caven and Ruckle, of the Eleventh Indiana, are deserving of special mention for gallant conduct in the charge upon and taking of a rebel battery. I regret that commandants of other regiments engaged in that affair have not seen proper to make special mention of the principal actors of their commands engaged in it.

To Colonels Spicely, Cameron, Macauley, Gill, and Bringhurst, all of whom were on foot, like myself, in consequence of an order prohibiting us from bringing our horses across the river, I am much indebted for valuable assistance, and the prompt and energetic manner in which they executed all orders.

I would also make honorable mention of Capts. J. H. Livsey, W. S. Marshall, and Lieut. D. J. Wells, of my staff, all of whom were very efficient in transmitting orders, more especially as they were also on foot.

My command moved from the Mississippi River at 3 p. m. on April 30, and marched until 5 a. m. 1st instant, carrying their knapsacks, four days' rations, and 100 rounds of ammunition per man.

I herewith transmit the reports of regimental and battery commanders, with a list of killed and wounded.

The loss of my command is as follows: *

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE F. McGINNIS,
Brigadier-General, Commanding First Brigade.

Capt. JOHN E. PHILLIPS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Twelfth Division.

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 583.

No. 13.

Report of Col. Daniel Macauley, Eleventh Indiana Infantry.

NEAR WILLOW SPRINGS, MISS.,
May 5, 1863.

SIR: The following report of the part taken by the Eleventh Indiana in the battle of May 1, near Port Gibson, is respectfully submitted:

We arrived near the battle-field at 6 a. m. on that day, after marching all night, and, before having time to cook breakfast, were sent by General A. P. Hovey to the field to report to General G. F. McGinnis. On an order from him, we stacked arms in shelter of a hill, and awaited the "advance."

About 8 a. m. I received General McGinnis' order to form line on the right of the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin Infantry, and advance, as support, 200 yards in the rear of the line formed by the Twenty-fourth, Forty-sixth, and Thirty-fourth Indiana Regiments. A deep ravine, choked by an almost impassable canebrake and undergrowth, was before us, through which, with great exertion, we succeeded in forcing our way. Two more of like character were passed, when, by marching by the left flank, an open space was reached, in which were formed the remaining regiments of the brigade.

In front of my position was a ravine running diagonally to the left and rear, on the far side of it, and a little to the right was stationed a rebel battery, supported by a heavy force of infantry. I was ordered to cross this ravine, making a right half-wheel, and attack, in company with the Forty-sixth Indiana, on the other side. The ravine was immediately passed, but the Forty-sixth had been delayed a little in crossing. I halted and waited a moment for it. We were formed in a road, in front of which was the Thirty-fourth Indiana, lying down; about 100 yards to the right and front was a large house, and immediately beyond it the rebel battery. Resolving to take possession, without further delay, of a part of the rising ground on which was the house and battery, I moved by the right flank, double-quick, up the road, then by the left flank over the fence, and with a run and yell the position and battery were ours.

This battery seemed to be a much-disputed point among a number of claimants for the honor of its capture. I find that as our two companies on the right (E and G) neared the guns, the rebels endeavored to turn them on us, but a volley from the companies killed a number of the cannoneers and prevented it. Possession was immediately had, and the guns turned on the enemy.

As, however, by this time the Forty-sixth Indiana was in the field, and the Thirty-fourth Indiana also moving and doing good service so near us, it is almost impossible to decide which of them did not participate in the capture of the battery. The Eleventh in the mean time kept up a constant and rapid fire on the enemy, which continued till he had retreated from all positions in range.

After a halt here of half an hour, I was ordered to advance with the Twenty-fourth Indiana and with two companies thrown out as skirmishers. Ordering Company E, Captain Ruckle, and Company G, Captain Caven, forward on that duty, we advanced about half a mile, when rapid firing to the left told us the battle had again commenced. We remained in shelter of a hill, on the right of Fenton's Peoria battery, till ordered forward to take a position on a ridge running nearly perpendicular to our present one, to resist an attack being made by the

enemy in force. This was about 11.30 a. m. Having moved, we remained in defense of that ridge till about 5 p. m., resisting during that time several attacks.

I was then ordered by General McGinnis to move forward and support an attack being made by General A. J. Smith's division. I at once moved down in the bottom, some 200 yards to the front, and awaited a chance to get in, there being here but one road, and it filled with troops at a halt. Remaining here about half an hour, the regiments to the front were brought back, and I was ordered to my recent position on the ridge. The firing in front soon ceased, and we bivouacked for the night.

In conclusion, I would say that where every man did his duty so thoroughly and fought with so much energy, it is difficult to single out any for special mention, yet the gallant conduct of Captains Ruckle and Caven in the capture of the battery deserves more than a passing notice.

The regiment entered the fight with 491 enlisted men and 28 commissioned officers. It lost 1 killed, 1 missing, and 23 wounded.

Very respectfully,

DANIEL MACAULEY,
Colonel Eleventh Indiana Volunteers.

Capt. JAMES H. LIVSEY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 14.

Report of Col. James R. Slack, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

HDQRS. 2D BRIGADE, 12TH DIVISION, 13TH ARMY CORPS,
Willow Springs, Miss., May 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the forces under my command in the severely contested battle of Port Gibson on the 1st instant:

My command consisted of the Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry, under command of Lieut. Col. John A. McLaughlin; Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, under command of Lieut. Col. William H. Raynor; Twenty-fourth Iowa Infantry, commanded by Col. Eber C. Byam; Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry, commanded by Col. John Connell; First Missouri Battery, Capt. George W. Schofield commanding, and the Peoria Battery, commanded by Lieut. Frank B. Fenton. I formed the infantry on the crest of Thompson's Hill, to the right of the Port Gibson road, at 6 o'clock in the morning, and Schofield's battery to the left of the same road, and in advance of the first line. The Peoria Battery, for want of transportation across the Mississippi, did not reach the field until about 10 a. m. During the formation of our lines, the battle opened a short distance to our left and front, and continued with great stubbornness for an hour, when General Hovey directed me to put my column in motion and support General Benton, whose forces were being hard pressed by overwhelming numbers. The whole column was immediately formed, and moved most gallantly to the point indicated, with the Forty-seventh Indiana and the Fifty-sixth Ohio on the extreme left and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-eighth Iowa on the right.

These positions were respectively taken under a severe fire of the enemy's infantry, and shell and canister from a whole battery at a dis-

tance of about 200 yards, yet the several commands took their position in line without flinching, and advanced to within 80 yards of the enemy's battery, immediately after which General Hovey ordered Colonel Cameron, of the Thirty-fourth Indiana, to charge and take the battery, and ordered me to support the charge with the Fifty-sixth Ohio, which was immediately to the left of the Thirty-fourth Indiana. I at once gave the command, and the order was promptly responded to, and the brave Fifty-sixth, with its gallant commander, rushed up to the very muzzle of the rebel guns, in company with the daring Thirty-fourth, drove them from their battery, killed a number of the cannoneers and troops supporting the battery, and captured the stand of rebel colors, which Colonel Raynor now has in his possession, a worthy custodian of that rebel trophy. Immediately after the guns were silenced, Colonel Raynor, with his command, passed on beyond the battery, and captured 220 prisoners. In the charge upon the battery, three companies of the Twenty-eighth Iowa also supported the Thirty-fourth Indiana. During the whole time, the Forty-seventh Indiana, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel McLaughlin, was hotly engaged with a heavy force of rebel infantry on the extreme left, which was trying to reach the left flank, but was repulsed at every effort, and driven back with terrible slaughter.

During this engagement, Schofield's battery, under the personal command of Captain Schofield and Lieut. Thomas Mitchell, dealt most terrible and damaging blows, which materially contributed to our success. Thus terminated the contest in the forenoon. In the afternoon the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-eighth Iowa were ordered to the rear and extreme left of the line, to support Major-General Logan's division, which was hotly engaged, and there continued fighting like veterans, as men of that gallant State always have done, until the enemy was driven from the field and utterly routed at every point, and the curtain of night closed the scene.

About 1 p. m. the Forty-seventh Indiana and the Fifty-sixth Ohio changed front, and occupied position about 1 mile to the left and rear of their position in the forenoon. I then moved the column forward, with Company D, of the Forty-seventh Indiana, under command of Capt. James R. Brewer, and Company B, of the Fifty-sixth Ohio, under command of Lieut. John Jochem, thrown forward as skirmishers.

After moving about half a mile over very broken ground, and across a ridge covered with timber, the skirmishers encountered the rebel column, with their sharpshooters in advance, under cover of thick brush and a ravine. After a sharp skirmish they were driven out, the column in the mean time advancing over a hill to the support of the skirmishers. Immediately upon their rising the hill, the action became general, but we were soon compelled to retire from our position, by re-enforcements of the enemy in large numbers approaching over the crest of a hill to our right and rear, and form our line on the slope of the hill, which was quickly executed and in good order.

During the time of forming this line with the two regiments of my own brigade, the Twenty-fourth Indiana Infantry, of the First Brigade, under command of Col. William T. Spicely, came down the hill and formed to the right of the Fifty-sixth Ohio, taking their position in the bed of a creek, at right angles with the line of the Second Brigade. These lines had not more than been formed when three rebel regiments—two Missouri and one Louisiana—came down at a charge, with terrific yells, and could not be seen, because of the very thick growth of cane, until they reached a point within 30 yards of my line.

The Fifty-sixth Ohio and Forty-seventh Indiana opened upon their line in front, and the Twenty-fourth Indiana on their flank, a most terrific and jarring fire, which arrested their charge and threw them into some confusion, but they soon recovered, and returned our fire with great spirit and pertinacity for about two hours, when the rebel survivors fled in utter confusion, leaving their dead and wounded upon the ground.

During this engagement the two batteries in my command located on the hill to our right and rear threw shell and shrapnel into the enemy's ranks, which created great havoc. In this engagement the Fifth Missouri (rebel) Regiment was almost totally annihilated, there being but 19 of them left, who were taken prisoners. With this contest closed the battle on the right, and it was a fair, square fight of regiment against regiment, of about equal numbers and equally armed, resulting in the complete triumph of the troops of Indiana and Ohio over the chivalric braggarts and flower of the Southern Army.

During the several engagements of my command many prisoners were taken, but they were sent to the rear, and placed in charge of the provost-marshal, without any account of the number being taken thereof.

The reports of the various commanders of my brigade are herewith inclosed, and make a part of this.

To the cool and gallant conduct of all the field and line officers, and the persevering determination of each and every one in my command, I cannot express too much gratitude and admiration. To them belongs the glory of the triumph, every officer and every man having done his whole duty.

My acting assistant adjutant-general, Lieut. H. G. P. Jennings, of Company C, Forty-seventh Indiana, and my aide, Lieutenant [Theodore] Schaeffer, of Company F, Twenty-eighth Iowa, rendered me most admirable service, carrying and executing orders during the whole day.

I would call special attention to Private George Phillips, Company K, Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, who, acting in the capacity of messenger for me during the whole day, was constantly with me when not absent temporarily upon some duty, never flinching from danger in the thickest of the battle, collected and calm; he is well worthy of promotion.

The whole number of casualties are: Killed, 16; wounded, 62; missing, 11—in all, 89.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES R. SLACK,

Col., Comdg. Second Brig., Twelfth Div., Thirteenth Army Corps.

Capt. JOHN E. PHILLIPS, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 15.

Report of Lieut. Col. John A. McLaughlin, Forty-seventh Indiana Infantry.

HDQRS. FORTY-SEVENTH REGT. INDIANA VOL. INFANTRY,
Willow Springs, Miss., May 5, 1863.

COLONEL: In compliance with orders, I proceed to give you a detailed account of the part borne by the regiment under my command (the Forty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry) in the battle of Port Gibson, Miss., on the 1st instant.

At about 6.30 a. m. we formed line of battle on the extreme right of the Second Brigade, where the battle immediately opened upon the part

of the infantry. At about 7.30 a. m. we were ordered to the left and front, to support the First Missouri Battery, Captain Schofield, which position, upon the height to the left of the road leading to Port Gibson, and about 1 mile in advance of our first line of battle, we occupied for more than two and a half hours, where we delivered three effective volleys at the enemy maneuvering upon our right. In this position the enemy's bullets fell among us thick and fast, but as we were well sheltered under the brow of the hill, we only lost 1 man from Company B and 1 man belonging to the ambulance corps of the Fifty-sixth Ohio Volunteers, both killed.

At about 11 o'clock we were ordered to the front. We then proceeded to the Port Gibson road, up which, toward Port Gibson, we advanced about 2 miles, and crossed to the right of said road, and formed in line of battle upon the crest of the hills. Here we ordered forward Company D, of the Forty-seventh, as skirmishers, and advanced to the extreme front over a ridge and across Willow Creek, and to the top of the hill beyond, where we formed in line of battle in the open field, our skirmishers being engaged in front with the Third and Fifth Missouri (rebel) Regiments, a rebel battery playing upon us at the same time. We here engaged the enemy, who opposed us hotly for half an hour. We were holding our own to good purpose, when we discovered that the rebels were advancing in line at double-quick at our right, and in a position favorable to taking us upon the right flank and in our rear. As we were a long way in advance of our main body when we took this position, and supposing ourselves entirely unsupported at our rear, we changed position, retiring by the left flank along the ravine through which we had gained the summit of the hill, and formed in line of battle at right angles with our former position, our left resting upon it, and immediately opened a brisk fire upon the enemy's lines, which were in full charge upon us. Here the battle raged furiously for over two hours, during which time the pieces of our men became so heated from rapid, continuous firing as to make it impossible for them to continue firing longer with safety to themselves. We were relieved at this position by the Nineteenth Kentucky, the Forty-seventh retiring a few paces to the gully formed by Willow Creek.

The firing having entirely ceased, and the enemy routed at this point, the Forty-seventh stacked arms in the hollow a few paces to the rear of Willow Creek, and, being exhausted by the previous night's march and the heat and fatigues of the day, was resting, when suddenly a well-directed volley from the enemy, who had skulked up under cover of the bushes upon the crest of the hill, informed us that the battle was not yet over. We immediately formed a few paces to the rear, under cover of the ravine. We were then ordered to advance to the same position (the bed of the stream), which position we held for the remainder of the day without hearing further from the enemy.

During the entire day the conduct of both officers and men under my command was most admirable; coolness and presence of mind was that of veterans.

Total killed, wounded, and missing, 27.*

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN A. McLAUGHLIN,
Lieut. Col., Comdg. Forty-seventh Regt. Indiana Infantry.

Col. JAMES R. SLACK,
Comdg. Second Brig., Twelfth Div., Thirteenth Army Corps.

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* But see revised statement, p. 583.

No. 16.

Report of Lieut. Joseph G. Strong, adjutant Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry.

NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS., *May* 28, 1863.

DEAR SIR: It affords me great pleasure to be able to report to you the part taken by the Twenty-eighth Iowa in the battle of Port Gibson, May 1, 1863.

On the evening of April 30, we were landed on the bank of the Mississippi, and started for Port Gibson. At 1 a. m of May 1 we could hear the boom of artillery in our advance. We quickened our pace, and arrived at the foot of Thompson's Hill at sunrise. General Hovey, our division commander, rode up and said, "Boys, prepare your breakfasts soon, for we go into battle in half an hour." After breakfast we formed in line of battle on the crest of Thompson's Hill, where we remained one hour under fire. Three companies at this time (B, G, and K) supported the Thirty-fourth Indiana Infantry in a charge on a rebel battery, which was taken, together with about 300 prisoners. After this contest the regiment was reformed and ordered to the extreme left (by order of General McClernand), which was at this time vigorously attacked by the enemy. On arriving at this point, we found that the enemy had massed a large force to turn our left, among which force were two rebel (Missouri) regiments (the Second and Fifth) which were placed directly in front of us. On arriving near to the point, we immediately formed the regiment in a position to meet them. After a hotly contested engagement of about two hours, the enemy fell back, and we succeeded in planting the Eighth Michigan Battery on the knoll we had held against their charge, which battery immediately commenced playing upon the enemy.

At about 4 p. m. they again appeared in force, still attempting to turn our left, but after a brisk engagement of about an hour they retired in confusion.

A company of skirmishers having been sent out to the left and front of our line, discovered a rebel battery which had command of the Port Gibson road for about three-quarters of a mile. Our artillery soon got in position and commenced shelling them. We lay in support of the batteries until they had silenced the enemy's guns. By this time it was nearly dark, and General Stevenson coming up, relieved us from our position on the left, and we rejoined our brigade, which was encamped for the night on the bloody field. Here we lay on our arms in support of the Peoria Battery during the night. I give an extract of Colonel Connell's report in regard to the conduct of the regiment:

> With regard to the conduct of officers and men during the action, I can only speak in terms of highest commendation. Although having marched all the day and night previous to the engagement, carrying three days' rations and 100 rounds of cartridges to the man, and having never before been under fire of the enemy, they yet fought with that fearless spirit and determination which has always characterized the American soldier.

I append a list of the killed and wounded.*

Our regiment is now on duty in the rifle-pits before Vicksburg, so you will see that I have but little time to make reports. However, I will send you a report of the part the Twenty-eighth took in the battle of Champion's Hill before long. I will only state that we lost in the

*Nominal list omitted. See p. 583.

battle of the 16th over 100 men. I will send you reports, &c., as soon as my field desk comes up. It is at Grand Gulf, where it has been for nearly a month. One thing, the Twenty-eighth has added new laurels to the noble young State of Iowa, and will continue to do so.

I remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH G. STRONG,
Adjutant Twenty-eighth Iowa.

N. B. BAKER,
Adjutant-General State of Iowa.

No. 17.

Reports of Brig. Gen. Eugene A. Carr, U. S. Army, commanding Fourteenth Division, including operations April 12–May 22.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH DIVISION,
May 31, 1863.

COLONEL: In obedience to a letter dated Headquarters Thirteenth Army Corps, camp near Vicksburg, Miss., May 24, 1863, I have the honor to submit the following report:

My division left Milliken's Bend April 12, and proceeded to Perkins' plantation, on the Mississippi, below Vicksburg, where it arrived on the 23d, having been engaged in making and repairing roads, repairing levees, making, getting together, and navigating boats of different kinds. Distance from Milliken's Bend to Perkins' plantation, 30 miles.

On the night of April 27, we embarked on steamboats and barges, and the next day moved down the river and disembarked at Hard Times. That evening we marched 2 miles across to a point on the Louisiana side, below Grand Gulf.

The next morning (April 30) we re-embarked and moved down the river to Bruinsburg, on the Mississippi side, where we landed, and, after drawing three days' rations, which were to last for five, we moved out on the road to Port Gibson.

At 1 o'clock on the morning of May 1, my Second Brigade, being in advance, came upon the enemy, strongly posted with artillery, at Magnolia Church, about 12 miles from Bruinsburg and 4 miles from Port Gibson. The enemy opened on the head of the column with artillery, whereupon I formed the brigade in line, brought up the batteries, the First Iowa (Griffiths') and First Indiana (Klauss'), and after firing about two hours drove away and silenced the enemy's guns. In the morning the enemy opened on a road coming in from our left front, when four companies of the Thirty-third Illinois, under Major Potter, were sent out to check them and hold them at bay till the arrival of General Osterhaus' division, which was assigned to contend with them on that road.

The enemy had returned to his position near Magnolia Church, and at 6.30 in the morning we again attacked him, supported by Hovey's division. I kept the enemy employed with my Second Brigade and the two batteries on the left of and in the road, while I sent the First Brigade, Brig. Gen. William P. Benton commanding, through ravines, canebrake, and timber to the right of the road, to press on his left flank. Some of the regiments of General Hovey's division came up, and, with their assistance, the First Brigade charged and routed the enemy, capturing two guns, a stand of colors, some prisoners, and small-arms. The enemy retreated about 2 miles, and took up a new

position. In conjunction with the other troops, we pursued and continued fighting him until night, when he retreated across Bayou Pierre, destroying the bridges.

My loss in that action, of which I have already furnished a more minute report, was 42 killed and 222 wounded; total, 264.*

The next day we marched into Port Gibson.

The next day, May 3, we were sent to the railroad crossing of Bayou Pierre, 3 miles, and subsequently were ordered forward on the road to Willow Springs, 11 miles distant.

On the 7th, at 3 a. m., we marched on the road to Cayuga, halting at Big Sandy, 14 miles distant.

On the 12th, we marched by way of Cayuga to Fourteen-Mile Creek, 12 miles.

The next day we marched to near Raymond, 11 miles.

The next day we marched past Raymond and Mississippi Springs to Forest Hill Church, 6 miles from Jackson. This was our hardest march. It rained all day, the roads were very bad, and part of the division failed in getting into camp. The distance was about 12 miles.

The next day we moved back through Raymond, and encamped across a road leading to Edwards Station; distance, 10 miles.

The next day, May 16, was the day of the battle of Champion's Hill. My division was in reserve. The Thirty-third Illinois was moved forward to support one of General Osterhaus' brigades, and lost 1 killed and 2 wounded. The Second Brigade was moved forward on the left, and did good execution. After the battle was over, we moved forward in pursuit of the enemy, and pushed on as far as Edwards Station, which we reached about 8 o'clock.

During the pursuit many prisoners were taken, who were simply ordered back to the rear. I made it a rule, whenever I was in front, to dispose of prisoners in that way, thus saving my own men for more important duties, and being satisfied that some one in the rear would pick up and secure the prisoners.

At Edwards Station my men exposed themselves freely in saving some car-loads of provisions and ammunition attached to a train which the enemy had set on fire.

On the morning of the 17th, we moved forward at 5 o'clock on the road to Black River Bridge, 12 miles distant, the First Brigade leading, with a part of the Thirty-third Illinois as skirmishers and advance guard. We drove in the enemy's pickets from time to time, and captured some prisoners, which were disposed of as before.

Upon nearing Black River Bridge, where we found the enemy in force, the First Brigade was formed in line across the road, with skirmishers in front and the battery in the center, subsequently re-enforced by the Chicago Mercantile Battery.

The Second Brigade was moved up on the right, with directions to press close on the enemy and charge him if there was a good opportunity. It was supported by two regiments and two 20-pounder Parrotts from Osterhaus' division.

The enemy's position was found to consist of a line of breastworks over a mile in length, resting on the Black River at each extremity, and with a natural ditch or slough in front 5 or 6 feet deep and miry at the bottom. Most of the artillery was posted on the right, where the ground was open for a considerable distance in his front.

Brig. Gen. M. K. Lawler, after pressing well up on his left, and firing

* But see revised statement, p. 584.

a few shots with the Peoria Battery and the 20-pounders, formed his brigade into column of attack and charged on the enemy; the Thirty-third and Ninety-ninth Illinois Regiments, of the First Brigade, also charging as soon as they saw the Second Brigade start.

The enemy were completely routed, and fled in confusion across Black River with a few pieces of artillery, leaving, however, 18 guns, 5 stand of colors, 1,421 small-arms, and 1,751 prisoners in our possession.

In this action I lost: Killed, 19; wounded, 223; missing, 1. Total, 243.*

The next day we moved on 8 miles, to within 4 miles of Vicksburg. The next day we moved up near the enemy's works. My division was in reserve, but got near enough to suffer some casualties.

On the 20th, my division relieved that of General Smith, on the advance.

On the evening of the 21st, we were ordered to attack the enemy at 10 o'clock next morning, at which time there was to be a general charge along the whole line.

My division was to be supported by that of General Smith; Benton's brigade by Burbridge's, and Lawler's by Landram's. General Smith's division behaved admirably, and did all that men could do to achieve success. The One hundred and thirtieth Illinois was assigned to Lawler's brigade in place of the Twenty-third Iowa, detached with prisoners. My two brigades moved forward promptly at the appointed time, and planted their colors on the outer slopes of the bastions, which they attacked, but were unable to make a lodgment inside the enemy's works. They, however, with the two brigades of Smith's division, parts of which were also on the enemy's works, held their position under a wasting fire for nine hours, until after dark, when they were ordered to retire.

About 5 o'clock in the afternoon, two brigades of General Quinby's division were placed at my disposal. I sent one to support the right, under General Burbridge, who was sorely pressed, but it retreated in confusion as soon as it got under the enemy's fire. The other, under Colonel Boomer, was sent forward with the hope of driving the enemy from the curtain between the salients attacked by my two brigades, and thereby gaining a permanent lodgment, but it was too late; the enemy had been enabled to withdraw forces from other points, had seen Quinby's division moving in this direction, and was so strongly re-enforced that he had three lines behind his works. The gallant Boomer was killed, and his brigade found it impossible to go beyond the first ravine.

In this action I lost 109 killed, 559 wounded, and 57 missing; total, 725.

I would respectfully state that it is impossible to give exactly the figures required in the letter above referred to. The distances marched on different days, together with the time of marching, are given as nearly as possible in the body of the report.

The numbers of killed and wounded follow the account of each battle. The total number of killed is 171; wounded, 1,006; missing, 58; the latter being mostly wounded and taken prisoners, or killed and not found during the last contest.

We captured a good many prisoners, who were immediately passed to the rear, not counted. We captured ammunition, which was immedi-

* But see revised statement, p. 584.

ately used; arms, which were taken by the men in exchange for their own; cartridge-boxes and other equipments, provisions, and various articles of which there was no time to take an account. Account was taken of 1,751 prisoners, 6 colors, 20 pieces of artillery, 1,421 small-arms, and 5 car-loads of provisions and ammunition.

In conclusion, while all have done their duty, and many are entitled to special mention of whose names and deeds I am not yet informed, I would respectfully submit the following list of officers and soldiers, who, from personal observation and official reports, I know to be entitled to favorable notice:

Brig. Gen. William P. Benton, commanding First Brigade.

Capt. George S. Marshall, assistant adjutant-general, First Brigade.

First Lieut. J. P. Wiggins, aide-de-camp to General Benton.

Col. David Shunk, Eighth Indiana, distinguished in all three of the battles; hit in the leg at Vicksburg.

Lieut. Col. C. S. Parrish, Eighth Indiana, distinguished at Port Gibson, though so ill he could hardly stand.

Maj. T. J. Brady, Eighth Indiana, acting ordnance officer, distinguished in all the battles, commanded skirmishers in advance at Port Gibson and Black River Bridge.

Col. H. D. Washburn, Eighteenth Indiana, distinguished in all the battles, and well worthy of promotion.

Maj. J. C. Jenks, Eighteenth Indiana, inspector-general and chief of staff, First Brigade, distinguished in all the battles, mortally wounded at Vicksburg while in the discharge of his duties.

Col. C. E. Lippincott, Thirty-third Illinois, distinguished in all the battles, had his horse shot under him while in advance in pursuit to Edwards Station, and was wounded in the foot at Vicksburg.

Lieut. Col. E. R. Roe, Thirty-third Illinois, wounded at Vicksburg.

Maj. L. H. Potter, Thirty-third Illinois, distinguished in all the battles.

Col. G. W. K. Bailey, Ninety-ninth Illinois, distinguished in all the battles and wounded in the leg at Vicksburg.

Lieut. Col. Lemuel Park, Ninety-ninth Illinois, distinguished in the battles of Port Gibson and Black River Bridge.

Captain Klauss, First Indiana Battery, distinguished in all the battles; has exploded a great deal of ammunition for the enemy during the siege of Vicksburg.

Orderly Sergt. J. W. Gerhardt, First Indiana Battery, distinguished in all the battles, and well worthy of promotion.

Brig. Gen. M. K. Lawler, commanding Second Brigade, particularly for his gallant charge at Black River Bridge.

Capt. B. Wilson, assistant adjutant-general, Second Brigade, distinguished in the last two battles.

Col. C. L. Harris, Eleventh Wisconsin, commanded the Second Brigade most of the time before the arrival of General Lawler, and is entitled to credit for its organization and discipline. Although too ill to command his brigade at the battle of Port Gibson, he was on the field and exposed to danger. He distinguished himself at Black River Bridge and Vicksburg, and is well worthy of promotion.

Lieut. Col. C. A. Wood, Eleventh Wisconsin, now acting inspector-general, provost-marshal, and chief of staff for the division, commanded the regiment at Port Gibson and distinguished himself in all the battles.

Maj. Arthur Platt, Eleventh Wisconsin, showed great bravery in all the battles.

Capt. L. H. Whittlesey, Eleventh Wisconsin, now acting division quartermaster, was acting assistant adjutant-general of the Second Bri-

gade at the battle of Port Gibson; has distinguished himself in all the battles and during the whole campaign by bravery, energy, intelligence, and untiring industry. He is well worthy of promotion.

Col. W. M. Stone, Twenty-second Iowa, commanded the Second Brigade at the battle of Port Gibson, and distinguished himself in all the battles; was wounded in the arm at Vicksburg, and is well worthy of promotion.

Lieut. Col. Harvey Graham, Twenty-second Iowa, distinguished himself in the last two battles, and was taken prisoner at Vicksburg.

Col. Samuel Merrill, Twenty-first Iowa, received a contusion from a shell at Port Gibson, and was shot through both legs while leading his regiment in the charge at Black River Bridge.

Lieut. Col. C. W. Dunlap, Twenty-first Iowa, was wounded in the foot at Port Gibson, and was killed in command of his regiment at Vicksburg.

Maj. S. G. Van Anda, Twenty-first Iowa, distinguished himself in all the battles, and commanded his regiment at Vicksburg after Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap was killed.

Col. W. H. Kinsman, Twenty-third Iowa, was killed at the head of his regiment while leading the charge at Black River Bridge.

Lieut. Col. S. L. Glasgow, Twenty-third Iowa, commanded his regiment at Port Gibson, and distinguished himself both there and at Black River Bridge.

Capt. H. H. Griffiths, First Iowa Battery, was with us at Port Gibson, where he behaved very handsomely.

Sergeant Leibert, First Iowa Battery, behaved very handsomely, and was wounded on the same occasion.

Sergt. Joseph E. Griffith, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, distinguished himself by going into the fort attacked by the Second Brigade, with 11 men, and came out with 12 prisoners, though all his companions had been killed.

My staff officers were Lieut. Col. C. A. Wood, Eleventh Wisconsin, assistant inspector-general, provost-marshal, and chief of staff. He commanded his regiment at Port Gibson, and distinguished himself in all the battles.

Maj. T. J. Brady, Eighth Indiana, acting ordnance officer, has been very active and successful in keeping us supplied with ammunition. He distinguished himself in all the battles, commanding the skirmishers in advance at Port Gibson and Black River Bridge.

Capt. C. H. Dyer, assistant adjutant-general, is a faithful, intelligent officer, and has been of great use to the command. He distinguished himself in all the battles, and is well worthy of promotion.

Capt. L. H. Whittlesey, Eleventh Wisconsin, acting assistant quartermaster, has been most untiring and successful in furnishing us with supplies; was acting assistant adjutant-general of the Second Brigade at the battle of Port Gibson; has distinguished himself in all the battles and during the whole campaign by bravery, energy, intelligence, and untiring industry. He is well worthy of promotion.

Lieut. John E. Phelps, Third U. S. Cavalry, aide-de-camp, showed his usual bravery and intelligence in all the battles. He was the first man on horseback, and the first man at the guns in the fortifications at Black River Bridge. He is well worthy of promotion.

Lieut. A. Bowman, Ninth Iowa Infantry, acting aide-de-camp, exposed himself freely, as usual, in the transmission of orders in all the battles. His bravery, energy, and intelligence entitle him to promotion.

Lieut. Charles Meinhold, Third U. S. Cavalry, mustering officer and acting aide-de-camp, showed great bravery and intelligence in all the battles. He had his horse killed under him at Vicksburg, and is entitled to great credit, and well worthy of promotion.

The medical department performed their onerous duties with great assiduity and skill, and are entitled to the greatest credit for relieving the sufferings of the wounded. Their names are: Surgs. H. P. Strong, acting medical director; George P. Rex, Thirty-third Illinois; W. H. White, Twenty-second Iowa, and J. H. Ledlie, operating board; Asst. Surgs. O. Peabody, Twenty-second Iowa; E. Everitt, Eleventh Wisconsin; A. E. McNeal, Ninety-ninth Illinois, and J. K. Bigelow, Eighth Indiana, assistant operating board; Surgs. A. P. Daughters and G. W. Gordon, Eighteenth Indiana, assistant in charge of primary depots.

Sergt. J. H. Russell, Twenty-first Iowa, clerk in assistant adjutant-general's office, went voluntarily into the battle at Black River Bridge, and was wounded.

Private E. P. Hatch, Thirty-third Illinois, clerk in assistant adjutant-general's office, went out as a sharpshooter and did good service.

I consider it a duty to bring to the attention of the major-general commanding and the Government the inferior quality of the ammunition, both artillery and infantry, furnished for the use of the troops. It is impossible to fire shells over our own troops without the greatest danger. I have lost quite a number of men on this account, and there is one deplorable instance—Sergeant [Charles U.] Besse, Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, both of whose arms were blown off by a shell from one of our own guns. Persons who fabricate the ammunition ought to be made pecuniarily responsible to the sufferers, and in pains and penalties to the United States, for this most careless and criminal recklessness. Complaint is also made of the quality and quantity of the powder in musket and rifle cartridges. The rebel cartridges are filled with the best of English rifle powder, and carry their balls much farther than ours.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. CARR,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

ADDENDA.

GENERAL ORDERS, No. 32. } HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH DIVISION, *May* 6, 1863.

I desire to congratulate the officers and soldiers of this division on the brilliant and successful manner in which they performed their duty in the different conflicts of the late battle near Port Gibson.

At the end of a tiresome night's march, the Second Brigade, under Colonel Stone, being in the lead, came upon the enemy at 1 o'clock in the morning, posted in a strong position, with artillery; immediately formed into line, and Captain Griffiths, First Iowa Battery, with the assistance of three pieces of Klauss' First Indiana Battery, fought him for over an hour, and finally, at 3 o'clock, drove him away. We lay down to take our first rest since 3 o'clock the preceding morning.

At 6.30 o'clock we renewed the conflict. The two batteries made terrible havoc with the enemy. The First Brigade, under Brigadier-General Benton, was deployed in the ravine and underbrush on the right, and advanced gallantly to flank the enemy and take his guns.

When they engaged him on the right, the Second Brigade engaged

him on the left; the Twelfth Division was advanced to support, and with a rush the enemy was routed from his position.

The Eighteenth Indiana, Col. H. D. Washburn, has the distinguished honor of capturing a regimental flag, on which are inscribed the names of four battle-fields, and, with the Ninety-ninth Illinois, Col. G. W. K. Bailey, and some of the Thirty-fourth and Forty-sixth Indiana, of capturing two of the enemy's guns. This success was the result of the splendid fighting of the whole division, which provided the opportunity.

After the enemy took up his new position, the Second Brigade was very severely engaged on the left of our line for a long time, and behaved with distinguished gallantry. It subsequently took up a position across the valley in the timber, very near the enemy, where two regiments (the Twenty-first and Twenty-third Iowa) remained until after dark.

The First Brigade went to the relief of General McGinnis' brigade, and the Eighth Indiana distinguished itself by driving the enemy from a strong position and taking it for themselves.

Coming from Missouri, where you had endured great hardships during the last winter, you were honored by being placed at the head of the grand Army of the Mississippi, and you have proved yourselves well worthy of that honor. You have encountered and defeated the same men against whom we have so long contended in Missouri and Arkansas, and you have added another wreath to those you won at Blackwater, Blackwell's Station, Fredericktown, Pea Ridge, Round Hill, Hartville, Haynes' Bluff, and Post of Arkansas, and I am sure you will go on with your glorious achievements till the demon of rebellion shall be destroyed, and our land shall once more rejoice in the blessings of peace and prosperity.

While we mourn our fallen comrades, we cannot forget that they have offered up their lives for the noblest of purposes—that of preserving to their country a Government at once free and stable, which shall give, in conjunction with the largest liberty to the citizen, the greatest security for his life and property. To their friends and to our wounded comrades we tender our sympathies, and hope that time and the thought of what they suffer for will soothe their pain and sorrow.

The loss of the First Brigade was, killed, 26; wounded, 143; that of the Second Brigade, killed, 15; wounded, 79; total, 263. This comprises only men put *hors du combat.* Scratches not reported.

Where all have done their duty it is invidious to make distinctions, but the conduct of some individuals seems to merit special mention, even at the risk of leaving out deserving men whose names have not been reported to me. These shall receive their due credit as soon as I am informed of their merits.

Brig. Gen. William P. Benton distinguished himself for daring gallantry and good management during the whole battle. Indiana continues to be glorified by her sons. Col. C. L. Harris, Eleventh Wisconsin, though he had been obliged to give up the command of his brigade on account of illness, was on the field and shared the dangers. Col. William M. Stone, Twenty-second Iowa, who succeeded to the command of the Second Brigade, took his place with the extreme advance guard at night, during the advance on the enemy; exposed himself freely, and exerted himself so much that he became completely exhausted in the afternoon, and was obliged to relinquish the command to Col. Samuel Merrill, Twenty-first Iowa, for about an hour. By his bravery and admirable management of his brigade, he reflects more honor on his noble State. Capt. George S. Marshall, assistant adjutant-general, First

Brigade, and Capt. L. H. Whittlesey, acting assistant adjutant-general, Second Brigade, distinguished themselves through the whole battle, and exposed themselves freely.

The regiments and batteries all showed great gallantry, and their commanders good management.

The list is as follows: Eighth Indiana, Col. David Shunk; Eighteenth Indiana, Col. H. D. Washburn; Thirty-third Illinois, Col. C. E. Lippincott; Ninety-ninth Illinois, Col. G. W. K. Bailey; First Indiana Battery, Captain Klauss; Eleventh Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. C. A. Wood; Twenty-first Iowa, Col. Samuel Merrill, first in battle and one of the last to leave the field (Colonel Merrill received a contusion from a shell); Twenty-second Iowa, Maj. J. B. Atherton; Twenty-third Iowa, Lieut Col. S. L. Glasgow, with its gallant young commander, behaved admirably; First Iowa Battery, Capt. H. H. Griffiths.

Maj. Thomas J. Brady commanded the skirmishers of the First Brigade.

Private Noah C. Haynes, Company K, Eighth Indiana, made a reconnaissance within the enemy's lines in the night.

Maj. L. H. Potter, with four companies of the Thirty-third Illinois Infantry, engaged the enemy on the left in the morning, holding him in check till the arrival of General Osterhaus' division.

Capt. W. S. Charles, Company H, Eighteenth Indiana, was the first man to jump on the enemy's guns.

Lieut. D. E. Adams, adjutant Eighteenth Indiana, passed twice through the hottest of the enemy's fire to conduct re-enforcements.

Private Amos Nagle, Company K, Eighth Indiana, captured color-bearer with flag bearing inscription of four battles.

Capt. J. C. Dinsmore, Ninety-ninth Illinois Infantry, seized one of the enemy's 12-pounder howitzers, turned it, and fired at him his own charge.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap, Twenty-first Iowa, commanded the skirmishers, and Major Van Anda, of the same regiment, commanded the support of the howitzer in advance of the Second Brigade.

Company B, Twenty-first Iowa, Captain Crooke, received the first fire of the rebel pickets, and returned it with great coolness.

Sergt. B. Kirst, Company E, Twenty-first Iowa, captured a rebel orderly, carrying dispatches.

Sergt. William R. Liebert, First Iowa Battery, who was mentioned for gallantry and good conduct at Pea Ridge, was (with his piece) on advance guard during the night's march, behaved with the greatest coolness and spirit, and was seriously wounded.

To the following-named medical staff we are under the deepest obligation. Rarely have troops in battle the good fortune to be provided with such an abundance of professional skill, administrative ability, patient care, and industry: Surg. H. P. Strong, Eleventh Wisconsin, medical director; Surg. William H. White, Twenty-second Iowa, chief of operating corps; Surg. W. L. Orr, Twenty-first Iowa, principal of field hospital; Surg. A. P. Daughters, Eighteenth Indiana, principal of primary hospital, First Brigade, and Assistant Surgeon Gordon, Eighteenth Indiana, principal of primary hospital, Second Brigade.

The following named officers were wounded: Capt. Judson B. Tyler, Company A, Eighteenth Indiana, severely; First Lieut. Joseph Hutchinson, Company D, Eighteenth Indiana, slightly; First Lieut. Daniel S. Place, Company G, Eighteenth Indiana, severely; First Lieut. J. W. Way, Company G, Eighth Indiana, slightly; Second Lieut. Allen O. Neff, Company G, Eighth Indiana, slightly; Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap, Twenty-first Iowa, in the foot; Lieut. D. P. Ballard, Company A,

Twenty-third Iowa; Capt. W. R. Henry, Company E, Twenty-third Iowa; Lieut. D. J. Davis, adjutant Twenty-second Iowa, slightly; Lieut. D. Webb Henderson, Twenty-second Iowa, severely; Lieut. John Francisco, Twenty-second Iowa, severely, and Lieut. W. M. De Camp, Twenty-second Iowa, severely.

To my staff too much praise cannot be given. They exposed themselves freely, going into the thickest of the fight whenever it was necessary and displayed the greatest coolness and good judgment. Their names are: Maj. Thomas J. Brady, acting ordnance officer and commanding officer of skirmishers of the First Brigade (had his horse shot under him); Capt. C. H. Dyer, assistant adjutant-general; First Lieut. L. Shields, Fourth Iowa Infantry, aide-de-camp; Second Lieut. A. Bowman, Ninth Iowa Infantry, aide-de-camp; Second Lieut. John E. Phelps, Third U. S. Cavalry, acting aide-de-camp, and Second Lieut. Charles Meinhold, Third U. S. Cavalry, acting aide-de-camp, assistant commissary of musters.

Capt. E. McPhail, Third Illinois Cavalry, was not allowed to bring his company on account of lack of transportation, but volunteered to act as my orderly during the battle, and displayed great activity and fearlessness.

In conclusion, I would say you have done valuable service to your country; your friends at home will be proud of your achievements, and I expect that when you again meet traitors in arms you will give as good an account then as you did on the field near Port Gibson, Miss.

E. A. CARR,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

GALESBURG, ILL., *July* 22, 1863.

COLONEL: I find in the Saint Louis Democrat of the 10th instant (slip inclosed) what purports to be the report of Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand, commanding Thirteenth Army Corps, of the operations of that corps during the Vicksburg campaign.

Assuming this to be genuine, I feel it to be my duty, both to the Fourteenth Division (which I commanded) and to myself, to protest against some of the statements contained therein.

Referring to the battle of Port Gibson, the report states as follows:

> To terminate a sanguinary contest, which had continued for several hours, General Hovey ordered a charge, which was most gallantly executed, and resulted in the capture of 400 prisoners, two stand of colors, two 12-pounder howitzers, three caissons, and a considerable quantity of ammunition. A portion of General Carr's division joined in the charge.*

This gives to General Hovey's division the principal credit of making the charge, and taking the guns and colors. My division had fought for about three hours. My First Brigade, commanded by Brig. Gen. W. P. Benton, had passed through obstacles almost insurmountable, consisting of ravines with precipitous ascents and descents, covered with tangled thickets and dense canebrakes, had got upon the left flank of the enemy, and closed up within short distance.

It was my plan from the beginning of the battle to get close to the enemy's guns in that manner and capture them. General Benton and the whole brigade clearly comprehended the movement, were skirmishing heavily, and stood ready to charge when the supports, which had been asked for, should come up. Just at this time, General Hovey's division came up, and the impulsion caused by the re-enforcement

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* See p. 144.

overwhelmed the enemy. General Hovey, no doubt, ordered his men to charge, and they did so most gallantly; but Benton's brigade, coming from the timber to the right of the road, was first at the guns.

A member of the Eighteenth Indiana (Benton's brigade) took a flag and carried it in his bosom during the day. A member of the Ninety-ninth Illinois (Benton's brigade) turned one of the guns, and fired the charge the enemy had left in it.

My men were first at the guns, captured a flag, and their charge from the flank prevented the enemy from carrying the guns off.

Referring to the battle of Black River Bridge, the report states as follows:*

General Carr's division, having entered the wood mentioned, was immediately formed, in obedience to my order; General Lawler's brigade on the right, resting its flank near Big Black, and General Benton's brigade on its left and to the right of the railroad.

General McClernand gave me no order to form line, nor any intimation how or where to form it, and, as far as I can recollect, he did not give me a single order of any kind whatever on that battle-field, until after the enemy's works were taken. I formed line, as a matter of course, on coming in contact with the enemy, and made the best disposition I knew how.

General McClernand did not come to the front till the commanding general came up, which, as the general may remember, was but a few moments before the charge.

This battle was fought and won by my division, with the following assistance: The Chicago Mercantile Battery and two pieces of the First Wisconsin, 20-pounders, actively engaged, and two regiments from Osterhaus' division, passively engaged as a support to Lawler's brigade, all under my command. Osterhaus' division was formed on the left of the road, but did not get within musket range.

I do not wish to take from the well-earned credit of other divisions or their commanders, but have in my report taken pains to mention them with praise whenever I could find an appropriate opportunity, but I must stand up for the noble troops whom I have had the honor to command, and see, as far as I am able, that their services are duly appreciated. In spite of some disagreeable occurrences in my military intercourse with General McClernand, I have always tried to show him the respect due to my commanding officer, and to carry out his orders and views in good faith, and to the best of my ability, as well as to do everything in my power for the interest of the service, and I cannot understand why he should show partiality to other commanders or troops, who certainly need no borrowed glory. Though I was the senior brigadier in his command, and second in rank to himself, no one would suspect it from the order in which divisions and generals are mentioned in various parts of the report, and in his recommendations for promotion, General McClernand places me second, which is, I suppose, intentional. He has a right, of course, to make recommendations of whom and in what order he pleases, but, having performed my duty to the best of my ability, I hope that the deciding authority will be satisfied with my conduct, and not think it best to promote any one over me.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. CARR,
Brigadier-General U. S. Volunteers.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS, *A. A. G., Hdqrs. Dept. of the Tenn.*

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* See p. 152.

No. 18.

Report of Brig. Gen. William P. Benton, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade.

BIVOUAC IN THE FIELD,
Mississippi, May 5, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the First Brigade, Fourteenth Division, Thirteenth Army Corps, Department of the Tennessee, in the engagement on the night of the 30th ultimo and 1st instant, near Port Gibson, Miss.:

About midnight I received the order of the general commanding the division to hasten forward the First Indiana Battery, which was immediately executed at a full run, arriving on the ground in a few minutes. The battery was at once placed in position, and opened a vigorous fire, which was continued, without intermission, till 3 a. m. of the 1st instant, when, the enemy having ceased his fire, we laid upon our arms, awaiting the tardy coming of daylight. In the mean time the infantry, consisting of the Eighth and Eighteenth Indiana and the Thirty-third and Ninety-ninth Illinois Regiments, had come on the field, and were also sleeping upon their arms, in support of the battery. At the earliest dawn, all were on the alert, eager for the coming fray. At this juncture, Major-General McClernand came dashing to the front, asking a thousand questions as to the position and strength of the enemy, the roads, and the general topography of the ground, and, with matchless energy, proceeded to verify every statement by a personal investigation.

About 6 a. m. I was ordered to push four companies down a road turning to the left of Shafer's house, and directly in the rear of the one on which the previous engagement occurred. I accordingly sent the gallant Major Potter, of the Thirty-third Illinois, with four companies of that regiment, with orders to feel his way down the road cautiously, and hold it until relieved by General Osterhaus' command, which had been ordered up, and then, without further orders, hasten to rejoin his regiment. In a few minutes his skirmishers engaged the outposts of the enemy, who replied sharply, both with small-arms and artillery. Owing to the promptness of General Osterhaus, the major's fight, though spirited, was of short duration, and he in turn promptly rejoined his regiment, and shared with it the dangers and glory of the fight on the extreme right.

General Osterhaus having thus secured our rear, by special direction of General McClernand, I ordered the Thirty-third Illinois, commanded by the cool and fearless Colonel Lippincott, to move forward along the high ridge to the west, and carefully explore the ravines intervening between Shafer's house and our intended line of battle. At the same time Captain Klauss was ordered to change the position of one section of his battery to the high ground on the left of the road, and open fire with his whole battery, while the gallant Major Brady, of the Eighth Indiana, commanding my skirmishers, consisting of one company from each regiment, was pressing forward under orders, and the Eighth and Eighteenth Indiana formed forward into line of battle. The Ninety-ninth Illinois was also ordered forward as the reserve of the brigade. In a very short time the battle raged with great fury. Having driven the stubborn enemy at the point of the bayonet several hundred yards from one ravine to another, and completely turned his left flank, I ordered a change of front forward on tenth company, which was accom-

plished most handsomely, at a double-quick, over the most difficult ground. So promptly and splendidly was the movement executed, under a galling fire of shell and musketry, that I was at a loss which most to admire, their valor or the efficiency of their drill.

In the mean time "Old Rough-and-Ready" No. 2, Colonel Bailey, commanding the Ninety-ninth Illinois, was ordered forward, which was executed with cheer on cheer at a double-quick. Our new line was formed with the Eighth Indiana, Col. David Shunk, on the right; the Thirty-third Illinois, Colonel Lippincott; Ninety-ninth Illinois, Colonel Bailey, and the Eighteenth Indiana, Colonel Washburn, whose left was resting near the Magnolia Church, and his whole regiment immediately in front of the enemy's battery. Now came the "tug of war" in good earnest. I soon found that the odds were largely against us, and that the enemy were making the most desperate efforts to turn our left flank, thus cutting us off from our support. I immediately dispatched Captain Marshall for re-enforcements, and did all in my power to stimulate the men to heroic action, and right nobly did they respond.

For at least two hours, single-handed, the First Brigade fought three brigades of the enemy, giving him volley for volley with interest. Three times did he form to charge us, and as often was he hurled back, discomfited by the well-directed aim of the brave lads of Illinois and Indiana. We had already driven the enemy over hill-top and through ravine for a full quarter of a mile, never yielding one inch ourselves. At length the anxiously looked-for succor came. We were all, officers and men, glad to know that it was composed of a part of the veteran troops of the gallant General A. P. Hovey's division, and the sequel proved that we were not mistaken in our estimate of their courage. No sooner had they come upon the ground—before I had fully completed my arrangements—than some one, unknown to me, gave the order "charge," which was executed with the wildest enthusiasm, the men of my brigade vying with their friends of Hovey's division who should first reach the enemy.

The result of this splendid charge was the complete rout of the enemy, the capture of the two 12-pounder howitzers, and at least one flag. This was not the work exclusively of Generals Carr's or Hovey's divisions. It was the joint work of both, and, in my humble judgment, herein is glory enough and to spare for both divisions. Our whole command are at a loss for words to express their admiration for the noble and gallant bearing of the officers and men of General Hovey's division. To borrow the expression of another when speaking of General Hovey, "There is no discount on his pluck," while the praises of General McGinnis and Colonel Slack; Colonel Cameron, of the Thirty-fourth Indiana, Colonel Macauley, of the Eleventh Indiana, and, in a word, all of them, were upon the tongues of all.

At the same time it is due to the truth of history to state that the Eighteenth Indiana, whose mortality list is larger than any other regiment engaged, and the Ninety-ninth Illinois, were in the charge; that Captain Charles, of Company H, of the former, was the first to jump upon one of the cannon and claim it as his trophy. Amos Nagle, private, of Company K, also captured the color-bearer and the colors of the Fifteenth Arkansas, inscribed with the battle-fields of Oak Hill, Elkhorn, Corinth, and Hatchie Bridge.

All this time, from first to last, the indefatigable First Indiana Battery, in charge of the brave Klauss, was pouring shot and shell into the enemy, firing, in all, 1,050 rounds at point-blank range. The entire line of my brigade was now advanced through the woods, and, moving

by the right flank, passed up the road in quick pursuit of the fleeing rebels. Arriving in front of the second position taken by the rebels, we were halted to rest.

During the afternoon, at the request of General McGinnis, I ordered the Eighth Indiana to the right of our new line, to support the Twenty-ninth Wisconsin, which was being hotly pressed with great slaughter. Well did the old Eighth sustain its high reputation under the lead of the veteran Colonel Shunk. Forming under a heavy fire, within 75 yards of the enemy, they at once charged, and drove the enemy from the brow of the hill, completely turning the tables on him, and punishing him severely. Indeed, just as the Eighth had exhausted their ammunition, they drove the enemy from that part of the field. In the mean time the remainder were ordered forward in support of some batteries on the hill. Captain Klauss, having had two pieces disabled and exhausted his ammunition, had been ordered to the rear. Thus we remained till late in the afternoon, when an order was received to go to the support of General Osterhaus, on the extreme left.

While in the prompt execution of this order, I encountered one from General Grant, to remain where I was for the present, General Osterhaus having driven the rebels. Accordingly, the men had just lighted their camp-fires to prepare some supper, when still another order came, sending us back on the field of battle, where we slept on our arms during the night.

When the facts are stated, that after two weeks dragging through the mud and crossing bayous in old scows and skiffs, on the morning of the 30th ultimo, at 3 o'clock, we arose from a sleep which had been disturbed by the bursting of shells from Grand Gulf, which vainly endeavored to sink our transports as they defiantly ran the blockade; and in the afternoon, landing below on the Mississippi shore, the First Brigade formed at once and pushed 4 miles back to gain and hold the hills, while the rest of the troops stopped to draw and distribute their rations. We had left a detail who carried ours upon their backs 4 miles to us. To see a stout-hearted fellow trudging along through the broiling sun with a box of crackers on his shoulders, weighing 100 pounds, claimed at once your admiration and sympathy.

Not waiting for all of our rations to come up, we again took up our line of march till about midnight, when the enemy opened on us. We fought him till 3 a. m.

At 6 o'clock the next morning we went at him again and fought him all day long, and finally whipped him most handsomely.

During all this time no one faltered, nor did I hear one word of complaint, under such circumstances, to obey the order literally. To mention all who distinguished themselves, I should be compelled to attach and make a part of this report, already too long, the muster-rolls of my entire brigade.

I have already made honorable mention of Colonel Shunk, Eighth Indiana; Colonel Washburn, Eighteenth Indiana; Colonel Bailey, Ninety-ninth Illinois; Colonel Lippincott, Thirty-third Illinois, and Major Brady, who commanded the skirmishers, each and all of whom are brave and competent. I am deeply indebted to my staff officers for their intelligent bravery and promptness in bearing my orders to all parts of the field; to Capt. George S. Marshall, assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. Joseph P. Wiggins, adjutant Eighth Indiana and acting aide-de-camp; Lieut. Jesse E. Scott, Company C, Eighth Indiana, acting quartermaster, and Lieut. William R. Irwin, Company A, Eighth Indiana, acting commissary, all of whom were under fire from the beginning to

the end. I am also indebted to the gallant Lieutenant Hill, Company B, Eighth Indiana, for acting as aide temporarily.

Our list of killed and wounded is attached, and made a part of this report.*

I have the honor to be, captain, with great respect, your obedient servant,

WM. P. BENTON,
Brig. Gen., Comdg. First Brig., Fourteenth Div., Thirteenth A. C.

Capt. C. H. DYER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Fourteenth Division.

No. 19.

Report of Col. William M. Stone, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry, commanding Second Brigade.

CAMP NEAR PORT GIBSON, *May* 2, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by the Second Brigade of the Fourteenth Division—consisting of the Eleventh Wisconsin, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Moore [Wood?]; the Twenty-first Iowa, commanded by Colonel Merrill; the Twenty-second Iowa, commanded by Major Atherton; the Twenty-third Iowa, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Glasgow, and the First Iowa Battery, commanded by Captain Griffiths—in the bloody engagement of yesterday, on Anderson's Hill.

About 10 o'clock on the night of the 30th ultimo, when the Fourteenth Division was on its march from Bruinsburg to Port Gibson, the Second Brigade being in advance, I was called upon to take command of it, and went immediately to the front. My instructions were to reach Port Gibson at as early an hour as possible, and occupy the several bridges across Bayou Pierre at that place. Four companies of the Twenty-first Iowa and one howitzer from Captain Griffiths' battery were sent forward as an advance guard. Two of these companies, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap, a brave and skillful officer, were deployed as skirmishers, and the other two, under command of Major Van Anda, to whom I am under great obligations for his coolness and promptitude, were left back as a support to the howitzer; the balance of the brigade, the Twenty-first Iowa leading, moved in column in supporting distance behind.

The road over which we marched passed through a country much broken by gorges and ravines, and thickly covered with tall timber, underbrush, and cane, so peculiar to the Southern country. While moving forward in this order, and about three-quarters of a mile from Magnolia Church, our skirmishers were fired upon by a heavy picket force of the enemy, posted in an angle of the road. I immediately formed the advance companies in line on the right and left of the road, and ordered Colonel Merrill forward with the other companies of his regiment. I then moved them slowly forward, covered by skirmishers, until I became satisfied that we had not yet reached the immediate vicinity of the enemy's main force. We then moved forward in column in the previous order, and as our skirmishers reached the head of the lane in front of Magnolia Church they received a tremendous volley of musketry from the enemy, strongly posted on the right and left of the

* Embodied in revised statement, p. 584.

church. I again formed the advance companies in line, and sent an order back for the entire brigade to move forward into line.

The advance howitzer was placed in position in the lane, but while these dispositions were being made, the enemy opened a battery upon us at short range, throwing their shell all around us. Finding myself in the face of the enemy, in a position carefully selected, with a perfect knowledge of the ground, I concluded at once that we had reached the place where the battle of the night was to be fought. The infantry were formed in line, and the batteries ordered in position on the ridge in rear of our advance. In the mean time, the howitzer in the lane, commanded by Sergt. William R. Leibert, was replying to the rebel battery with great spirit and apparent accuracy. Soon our entire battery opened upon the enemy, in conjunction with Captain Klauss' First Indiana, and continued to return the enemy's fire with great rapidity until 2 o'clock in the morning, when the enemy's batteries were driven from the field and silenced, and our men lay down upon their arms to await the coming dawn, when they were to meet the rebel infantry face to face in bloody combat.

This artillery duel was one long to be remembered by those who witnessed it. The fire of the rebel batteries, on account of their knowledge of the ground, was quite accurate, and many of our men and horses were disabled by them. The extreme darkness, the screaming and bursting of shells, and the rattle of grape through fences and timber, conspired to render the scene presented by this midnight battle one of the most terrific grandeur.

Soon after sunrise the battle was renewed by the enemy, who held their position during the night. Their batteries opened upon us with great vigor, and their infantry moved forward to the attack. My command was promptly in line, and Captain Griffiths vigorously returned their fire with his admirable battery. Other brigades and batteries were soon engaged on our right and left, and the two contending forces became hotly engaged. Our position being in the center of our line, I was ordered by General Carr to hold my infantry in readiness to charge the enemy's lines when the decisive moment should arrive, though we were all the time in range of the rebel artillery and musketry.

About 10 o'clock it became evident that the enemy were massing their forces upon our immediate front, as their musketry was increasing in volume and rapidly advancing toward us. At this juncture I moved my brigade forward in double lines of battalions, for the purpose of charging upon the advancing columns of the enemy. We were compelled to cross a deep hollow, thickly covered on both slopes with underbrush and cane, but my men moved forward with the spirit and steadiness of veteran troops, and with unbroken lines. When the thicket was passed, and as we advanced into the open field close to the enemy's lines, we opened our fire upon them with such rapidity and precision that, unable to resist it, they soon broke and retreated in utter confusion. This ended the battle of the morning. Our victory was complete.

The dead and wounded of the enemy lay thickly scattered over the ground, while their prisoners and small-arms that fell into our hands were counted by the hundreds. We remained but a few minutes on the victorious field. I moved at once in pursuit of the retreating foe, and when about 1 mile from the late field my advance regiment, the Eleventh Wisconsin, covered by two companies of skirmishers from the Twenty-third Iowa, was fired upon from the timber. I saw at once that the enemy had been strongly re-enforced and were determined to make another stand. Their position was well chosen, on a high hill covered with

timber, and commanding the entire ground over which we were compelled to approach.

My regiments were soon in line, with Captain Griffiths' battery in position, which soon opened with its usual spirit upon the enemy. Simultaneously with this the rebel batteries also opened with accurate range, and for about half an hour we sustained alone the concentrated fire of their infantry and artillery. Finally other brigades and batteries became engaged, and the battle raged with terrific fury along our lines. My command, however, remained in front during the entire engagement, and all the time under the enemy's fire. They retired only after the battle had ceased and the enemy had again retreated from the field.

During these five hours' hard fighting I am proud to say that the officers and men of this brigade acted with the utmost coolness, and with a determined courage that would have done honor to veteran troops. They promptly obeyed every command, and displayed a degree of heroism which nothing but the influence of exalted patriotism could have produced.

To Colonel Merrill, of the Twenty-first Iowa; Lieutenant-Colonel Glasgow, of the Twenty-third Iowa; Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, [Wood?] of the Eleventh Wisconsin, and Major Atherton, of the Twenty-second Iowa Regiments, I am under great obligations for the coolness and promptitude with which they obeyed my orders in the various movements on the field. Their associate officers, too, are entitled to great credit, as all of them, so far as I have been able to learn, performed their duties nobly.

To the dauntless and heroic men of the ranks and the line officers all honor is due. Never did brave men endure more with less murmuring than they during those thirty consecutive hours of hard marching and severe fighting; but when the history of this war is fully written, they will be numbered among the bravest defenders of the republic.

I desire to make particular mention of Capt. L. H. Whittlesey, of the Eleventh Wisconsin, acting assistant adjutant-general, for his great energy and activity throughout the battle. He was always at the right place at the right time, and almost constantly on the hottest portion of the field. No braver man or truer soldier ever entered the field of battle, and I should be much pleased to see him occupy a position where his talents and bravery could be more successfully employed.

Lieutenants Jackson, of the Eleventh Wisconsin, and Waterbury, of the Twenty-third Iowa, acting aides, rendered me essential service, and they both displayed great coolness and bravery in conveying orders under the hottest of the fire.

I must also avail myself of this opportunity to express my admiration of the gentlemanly deportment, the coolness, and conspicuous bravery of the brigadier-general commanding the division during all our severe fighting. His presence on the field during the heaviest of the battle, and the clearness and self-possession with which his orders were given, contributed much to enforce confidence among all who were under his command.

With me there is a higher significance attached to the victory of yesterday than the mere defeat and rout of the enemy. We fought the veteran troops of the Confederacy, who gloried in the laurels won upon the earlier fields of the war. They were gathered from several States, and were led by a general who fought us at the memorable battle of Shiloh, over one year ago. We met them again upon more equal terms, and in a contest as fierce as Shiloh, considering the numbers engaged. Hand to hand we fought them, and demonstrated the fact beyond all

dispute that the fiery valor of the South is no match for the cool and stubborn courage of the Western soldier.

One year ago I passed through the State of Mississippi a prisoner of war, on my way to a Southern prison. Now I am marching with a victorious army, with my former captors fleeing before us, seeking shelter beyond the reach of our heroic columns. Such is the change that has come over the cherished plans and bright visions of the men who are endeavoring to destroy the nationality of our people.

Fired by the inspiration of victory, the brave men of this brigade desire to be led forward to complete the work so well begun. "Onward" is their watchword, until Vicksburg shall fall and the Stars and Stripes shall wave in triumph over every square acre of ground in this rebellious State.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. M. STONE,
Colonel, Commanding Second Brigade.

Capt. C. H. DYER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 20.

Report of Col. Samuel Merrill, Twenty-first Iowa Infantry.

[MAY —,] 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that, in the late battle of Port Gibson, April 30 and May 1, we lost in wounded 16 men, including 5 non-commissioned officers. The officers and men, with two or three exceptions, behaved with singular courage and bravery.

It is known to you that we had the honor of being the leading column of this great army, and of drawing the first fire at Port Gibson. At the widow Daniels' plantation, some 9 miles from Port Gibson, we were ordered by General Carr to take the advance. I ordered Company A, commanded by Capt. A. R. Jones, and Company B, commanded by Capt. William D. Crooke, as advance skirmishers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap, supported by Companies D and F, commanded by Major Van Anda; next was a 12-pounder field piece from that excellent battery, the First Iowa; all supported by the balance of my command. I am happy to report that, in the skirmishing of those companies, singular fortitude and bravery were exhibited during that long and tedious night's march, and especially are Company B and Captain Crooke deserving of mention as having received the first fire of the pickets and returning it with great coolness. Our advance was fired upon by the rebel picket about 1 mile from the town of Port Gibson. Our column was rapidly advanced, and soon received the raking fire of the enemy's batteries, which were seven in number. As soon as the battery of the First Iowa could be brought to bear, Company E, commanded by Captain Swivel, was ordered to its support. They have received the commendation of all for their faithfulness. Sergt. B. Kirst, of this company, captured a rebel orderly while carrying dispatches. General Carr next ordered a company to stand as picket guard. Company G, commanded by Captain Benton, performed this duty till morning. Next came an order for two skirmishing companies to deploy in front of the enemy, and, in fact, between the enemy and our own artillery firing. I called for volunteers from my four remaining companies.

Capt. J. M. Harrison, of Company C, being the only commissioned officer of his company, although advanced in years and in feeble health, at once volunteered to take the advance, and, with his company and Company K, commanded by Captain Voorhees, performed this dangerous duty faithfully.

During the severe and continued firing of May 1, so generally and heartily were my orders obeyed by officers and men that I am at a loss to give particulars. Captains Boardman and Watson have my warmest thanks. They are cool and brave officers. I can say the same of all the other officers whose names have been mentioned. Many incidents of courage and bravery could be spoken of, but it would render this report entirely too long.

It is but just to say that the Twenty-first remained for two hours in the rear of the Eighty-first Ohio, to support that regiment in making a charge on the enemy's batteries, but, for some reason, I regret to say, abandoned.

My regiment remained on the field after all had retired, and it was nearly 8 o'clock before we camped for the night, thus showing that we were first in battle and last to leave the field.

I am under many obligations to my field officers and staff for their faithfulness and aid.

Lieutenant-Colonel Dunlap received a wound in the foot. My own horse was shot in several places, and a portion of my saddle shot off.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

SAMUEL MERRILL,
Colonel Twenty-first Regiment Iowa Infantry.

Col. W. M. STONE,
Twenty-second Iowa, Commanding Brigade.

No. 21.

Report of Maj. Joseph B. Atherton, Twenty-second Iowa Infantry.

CAMP NEAR ROCKY SPRINGS, MISS.,
May 7, 1863.

SIR: I herewith report to you the action of the Twenty-second Iowa in the battle before Port Gibson on the 1st instant.

You having been called upon to command the Second Brigade, to which we are attached, the command of the regiment devolved upon me.

On the evening of the 30th ultimo, on our march toward Port Gibson, after our advance guard became engaged with the enemy, I received an order from you to hurry my regiment forward and form it in line on the left, our artillery then hotly engaged with the rebel batteries. This order was promptly obeyed, and the men came up quickly and in good order, forming at the point designated. We were then under the enemy's fire, yet my men manifested great coolness and self-possession. We remained in line for two hours, in support of the batteries, until the battle ceased for the night, and we laid down upon our arms, but not to sleep, as we were in momentary expectation of a renewal of the combat.

Soon after sunrise we were again in line, and under the enemy's fire in support of our batteries until near 10 o'clock, when we were led forward to charge on the rebel lines. This movement was executed with

alacrity by my regiment; not a man faltered or fell back. Our fire was delivered upon the enemy with great deliberation and accuracy, and when their lines were broken and they driven in rout from the field we were the first to occupy the ground.

In the long and hotly-contested fight of the afternoon my regiment was all the time in face of the enemy and under his severest fire. Three several times we were ordered against the rebel infantry and under the range of his batteries. Each time we drove them from the field. Late in the afternoon, by your order, we charged up the hill, in conjunction with the Twenty-first Iowa and on the left of General Burbridge's brigade, against the enemy's lines, there strongly posted in almost impenetrable timber and underbrush. Though unable, from the character of the ground and the raking fire of the enemy's batteries, to reach the extreme summit of the hill, we reached the point to which I was ordered and remained there, receiving and returning the enemy's fire, until about sundown, when, by your order, we returned to our former position, and remained upon the field until the firing had entirely ceased and quiet reigned along our whole line.

Throughout these series of engagements the officers and men of my regiment behaved with great coolness and gallantry. I found them always ready and eager to obey the order to move on the enemy.

So well did the entire command acquit themselves that I cannot, without seeming invidious, enter into particulars. It is sufficient to say that they acted nobly, and well sustained the honors already so well earned by Iowa soldiers.

Great care was taken to shelter our men from the enemy's fire, which the unevenness of the ground enabled us to do with comparative success; yet the loss in this regiment being greater, with but one exception, than any other regiment in the brigade, shows clearly where we were in this long and hotly contested engagement, and that my men did not shrink from their duty.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to our surgeons, White and Peabody. Their department was conducted with skill and ability; their attention to the wounded was truly commendable, and will doubtless be long remembered by these unfortunates.

Very respectfully,

J. B. ATHERTON,
Major, Commanding Regiment.

Capt. L. H. WHITTLESEY.

No. 22.

Report of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, including operations April 18–*May* 19.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In rear of Vicksburg, Miss., May 26, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit the following report of operations of the Seventeenth Army Corps from the time of leaving Milliken's Bend, La., until our arrival before the land defenses of Vicksburg:

On my arrival at Milliken's Bend from Lake Providence with a portion of my command (the Seventh Division), the Thirteenth Army Corps, Major-General McClernand commanding, had moved toward New Carthage, via Richmond and Smith's plantation. I was ordered to move

forward and take the place of General McClernand's troops as fast as they advanced. In pursuance of this object, the Second Brigade, Seventh Division, was moved to Richmond on April 18, and the First on the 23d.

On April 24, orders were received from department headquarters to march my command to New Carthage.

Colonel Boomer's brigade, Seventh Division, was ordered to march at 5 a. m. on the 25th, to be followed by the Third Division, Major-General Logan commanding, at 6 a. m. same day, and by the Sixth Division, Brigadier-General McArthur commanding, at 6 a. m. the day following.

Orders were at the same time sent to the First and Second Brigades at Richmond to move toward Smith's plantation, 3 miles from New Carthage, on the morning of the 25th.

These orders were promptly executed by officers and men, and the whole command was in motion at the appointed times.

The Third Division bivouacked on the road near Smith's plantation, and the Seventh Division at a plantation a short distance in the rear, on the evening of the 26th.

At Smith's plantation (headquarters of the department), orders were received for the Third and Seventh Divisions to march to Perkins' plantation, on the Mississippi River, some 8 miles below New Carthage, and distant from Smith's plantation, by the route we were compelled to take, some 15 miles. The Sixth Division was left to guard the lines of communication from Milliken's Bend to Perkins' plantation, 43 miles.

Heavy rains had rendered the roads across the rich alluvial bottoms on the Louisiana side almost impassable, and it was only by the most strenuous exertions on the part of the men, and by doubling teams, that the artillery and trains could be got along. This was, however, successfully accomplished, and the Third Division reached Perkins' plantation at 9 p. m. on the 28th instant.

At this point orders were received to march to Hard Times Landing, nearly opposite and a short distance above Grand Gulf. At 12 o'clock the same night the division started on the march, via Lake Saint Joseph, and reached Hard Times Landing at 4 p. m. of the 29th, bivouacked for the night, and at 5 a. m. of the 30th started for the point of embarkation below Grand Gulf, and crossed over to Bruinsburg, just below the mouth of Bayou Pierre, the First and Third Brigades, Third Division, Brig. Gens. John E. Smith and John D. Stevenson commanding, and the Eighth Michigan Battery, Captain De Golyer commanding, immediately after General McClernand's command, followed as rapidly as river transportation would admit, by the Second Brigade, Brigadier-General Dennis commanding, the remainder of the artillery, ammunition train, and the Seventh Division.

A most unfortunate collision between the steamboats Horizon and Moderator, about 3 a. m. May 1, between the place of embarkation and Bruinsburg, by which the former boat was lost, together with Captain Sparrestrom's battery, a few horses, and 3 men, delayed very materially the embarkation of the Second Brigade and the remainder of the artillery of the Third Division.

Immediately after disembarking, the First and Third Brigades, with De Golyer's battery, were pushed out toward Port Gibson to the support of Major-General McClernand, who had already engaged the enemy near Port Gibson, under command of Major-General Bowen. Heavy and rapid firing had been heard for several hours, indicating clearly that a battle was in progress, and the men moved forward with promptness and alacrity, notwithstanding the intense heat, anxious to take part in the contest. On reaching the ground, Major-General Grant directed me

to send one brigade to the support of General McClernand's left and one to the support of his right. As I had but two brigades of my command on the field—the First and Third—the First Brigade, General John E. Smith, was sent to the left, and the Third Brigade, General John D. Stevenson, to the right. Major-General Logan, commanding division, was directed to go with the brigade to the right and I went with the brigade to the left.

As soon as the position of the enemy could be definitely ascertained, and the ground reconnoitered, the brigade was thrown in on the left of Brigadier-General Osterhaus' division, with directions to advance the left, and, if possible, outflank the enemy. This movement was perfectly successful, though the impracticable nature of the country (full of deep ravines and canebrakes) retarded the movement more than I could have wished, and prevented us from reaping the full fruits of the victory. As it was, however, a gallant charge by the First Brigade on the flank and Brigadier-General Osterhaus' division in front soon drove the enemy from their strong position on the left, and sent them back in a precipitate retreat toward Port Gibson.

The Third Brigade, under Brigadier-General Stevenson, on the right, was equally fortunate, and shortly before sunset the rebels were routed on all parts of the field. A pursuit was immediately ordered on the left-hand road, and kept up by Brig. Gen. John E. Smith's brigade and one regiment of Osterhaus' division until after dark, when the command was halted within 2 miles of Port Gibson.

At an early hour the next morning the command was put in motion, the First and Second Brigades, Third Division, entering Port Gibson about 9 o'clock, preceded by the divisions of Generals Carr and A. J. Smith, of McClernand's corps. The town had been evacuated by the enemy during the night, and the fine suspension bridge across the south fork of Bayou Pierre, on the Grand Gulf road, destroyed.

Measures were immediately taken by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, of Major-General Grant's staff, and Captain Tresilian, engineer of the Third Division, assisted by the pioneer corps of the division and troops from General McClernand's corps, to construct a bridge across the south fork of Bayou Pierre.

While waiting the construction of a bridge, General Stevenson's brigade was moved down near the crossing of Bayou Pierre, on the Grand Gulf road, to engage the attention of the enemy, who were strongly posted on the hills on the northern side. In the mean time, Brig. Gen. John E. Smith's brigade and that of Brigadier-General Dennis were marched up on the west side of the south fork of Bayou Pierre about 4 miles to a ford, and crossed over, moving down on the east side in a northeast direction until they reached the main Jackson road.

At 4 p. m. the bridge was completed, and the Seventh Division, under the command of Brig. Gen. M. M. Crocker, took the advance, followed by the Third Brigade of Logan's division, and, after coming up with them, by the First and Second Brigades. Marched 8 miles to north fork of Bayou Pierre, and found the suspension bridge, a fine structure, partially destroyed, the fire still burning. The fire was put out, and the bridge repaired during the night.

At daylight the next morning Logan's division, in the advance, crossed the bridge, followed by Crocker's. Shortly after crossing the bridge, and near Willow Springs Post-Office, the enemy was met advantageously posted on a commanding ridge, and opened on our advancing column with artillery. The column was immediately deployed, a heavy line of skirmishers thrown forward, and Crocker's division hastened across the

river as a support. These dispositions having been made, an advance was ordered, when the enemy, after a slight resistance, fell back on the road to Hankinson's Ferry, and the cross-roads at the post-office were gained. At this point Logan's division was directed to take the road to Grand Gulf, and General Crocker's division to pursue the retreating enemy. The latter division had proceeded but a short distance before it became engaged with the enemy's skirmishers, who seemed disposed to contest the ground with great pertinacity. The face of the country was very much broken, with almost impassable ravines filled with trees and a dense undergrowth, and narrow, tortuous roads, offering great facilities to the enemy to cover his retreat, and of which he availed himself to the best advantage.

The skirmishing was kept up with more or less activity until 4 p. m., when the appearance of Logan's division on the enemy's right flank caused him to move precipitately toward the ferry, followed closely by the Second Brigade, General Dennis, who reached it just as the last of them were crossing, and in time to capture some of their pioneer tools and prevent the destruction of the bridge. It being now nearly dark, and the enemy driven across the Big Black, the pursuit was discontinued and the troops disposed in the best defensive position for the night. The command remained in camp at Hankinson's Ferry three days, from the 4th to the 6th inclusive, the time being employed in getting up supplies of provisions and ammunition and in reconnoitering the country. The result of the reconnaissances demonstrated that the main portion of the enemy retreated across the river at this point, and were concentrating at Bovina Station, near the Big Black, on the Jackson and Vicksburg Railroad.

At 10 a. m. on the 7th, marched to Rocky Springs, Logan's division in the advance, followed by Crocker's, and remained in camp at Rocky Springs on the 8th.

On the 9th, marched toward Raymond, via Utica, and encamped at Utica Cross-Roads, 7 miles from the latter place, Crocker's division in the advance. The Sixth Missouri Cavalry, Col. Clark Wright, having reported to me at Hankinson's Ferry, was directed to push forward in advance toward Utica, and especially to scour the country in my front and on my right flank, and ascertain, if possible, if there was any movement of troops from Port Hudson. Shortly after arriving in camp, a report was received from Colonel Wright that he was occupying the town of Utica, and had been skirmishing with the enemy's cavalry, but would hold his position.

On the 10th, marched to Utica, Crocker's division in the advance, and reached the town about 12 m. Found Colonel Wright's cavalry there; but nothing indicating any material force of the enemy in the immediate vicinity, the command was halted one hour to rest, and then moved on to Weeks' plantation, where we encamped for the night. Colonel Wright was ordered to proceed with his cavalry in a southeasterly direction across Tallahala Creek, make a detour, and, if possible, capture 150 rebel cavalry who were reported to be at the bridge across this creek, on the Gallatin road, and, having accomplished this, or, at least, driven them away, with the main portion of his command to make a bold push and cut the telegraph and railroad near Crystal Springs, on the New Orleans and Jackson road, both of which were successfully accomplished, the cavalry returning safely to camp the next night, having marched over 50 miles in sixteen hours and performed its work.

On the 11th, the command marched to Roach's plantation, at the crossing of the Gallatin road, Logan's division in the advance. At this

point, my escort company, Fourth Ohio Independent Cavalry, Captain Foster; Logan's escort, Company A, Second Regiment Illinois Cavalry, and Crocker's escort, Company E, Second Regiment Illinois Cavalry, Captain Tipton, and Company C, Fifth Regiment Missouri Cavalry,* Lieutenant Mueller, were organized into a battalion of cavalry, under Captain Foster, and performed most efficient services as advance guard and flankers.

On the 12th, at 3.30 a. m., Logan's division moved toward Raymond, followed by Crocker's at 4 a. m. Soon after starting, the enemy's vedettes showed themselves frequently, making increased vigilance on our part necessary, and, after marching some 3 miles, two regiments of Dennis' brigade were deployed, one on the right and the other on the left of the road, and moved forward in line of battle, preceded by a strong line of skirmishers, and followed by the remainder of the columns, the cavalry in front being called in and placed on the extreme flanks, with instructions to explore all lateral roads, and detect any movement of the enemy.

About 11 a. m., and when within 2 miles of Raymond, we came upon the enemy, under the command of General Gregg, and 4,000 or 5,000 strong, judiciously posted, with two batteries of artillery so placed as to sweep the road and a bridge over which it was necessary to pass. The major portion of the infantry were posted on a range of hills to the right of the road, and in some timber and ravines in their front. I was soon satisfied that the fight for Raymond was to take place at this point. Orders were immediately sent back to move all our trains out of the road, for the remainder of Logan's division to advance as rapidly as possible, followed by Crocker's, which was to form the reserve.

As soon as Smith's brigade came up, it was formed on the right of Dennis', who occupied both sides of the road, and three regiments of Stevenson's were thrown in on the right of Smith's, with directions to advance his right as much as possible. De Golyer's battery was placed in position in the road near the bridge, and the whole line ordered to advance into a piece of timber. Scarcely had the advance commenced, when the battle opened with great fury on the center and left center, where, under cover of the woods and ravines, the rebels seemed to have massed a large portion of their force. The Eighty-first Regiment Illinois Infantry, of Stevenson's brigade, was ordered to the support of the center, and a portion of Sanborn's brigade, Crocker's division, but before the latter reached the ground, the enemy were handsomely repulsed and in full retreat.

De Golyer's battery, which at first was in position on the road, having been moved into an open field on their left, played on their flanks during the retreat with terrible effect.

One attempt of the enemy to charge and capture the battery was met by such a terrific fire of grape and canister that they broke and fled from the field.

Pursuit was immediately commenced, and the town of Raymond was entered by our troops at 5 p. m., the enemy having passed through without stopping, toward Jackson, via Mississippi Springs. In this short but spirited engagement our loss in killed was 69, and among them Colonel Richards, of the Twentieth Illinois, a most gallant and able officer, who was struck down at the head of his men while nobly cheering them on to victory. Our loss in wounded was 341; missing,

* More correctly, Company F, Fourth Missouri Cavalry

30.* The enemy's loss was, in killed, 103; wounded and prisoners, 720; two pieces of cannon disabled, besides a quantity of small-arms.

Marched on the 13th, at 6 a. m., for Jackson, via Clinton, Crocker in the advance. Major-General Sherman's command arriving before mine had left the town, was ordered to take the direct road to Jackson. Moved on cautiously toward Clinton, my cavalry being ordered to keep well out on my left flank, and entered the town at 2 p. m. without opposition. A regiment of infantry, under the immediate supervision of Capt. A. Hickenlooper, Fifth Ohio Battery, chief engineer of the corps, was set to work to destroy the railroad as far west of Clinton as possible that night, and to proceed along the line of it the next day during our march toward Jackson, tearing it up wherever practicable, burning the ties, bending the iron, destroying bridges, culverts, &c.

On the 14th, Crocker in the advance, marched toward Jackson at 5 a. m., Major-General Sherman moving on his route at about the same time. Engaged the enemy's pickets about 5 miles from Jackson, and drove them in about 9 a. m., and pushed on until within 2½ miles from the city, where the enemy was found posted in strong force, under the command of General W. H. T. Walker. Some of the troops consisted of South Carolina and Georgia regiments, which had only arrived the evening before, and had been immediately marched out and placed in position at the point where the battle took place.

The position of the enemy was carefully reconnoitered, and Lieut. J. W. MacMurray's battery (M), First Missouri, of Parrott guns, brought up to reply to their artillery, which had already opened on our lines. While the dispositions for the attack were being made, a very heavy shower set in, which delayed the attack for an hour and a half, the rain coming down in such torrents that there was great danger of the ammunition being spoiled if the men opened their cartridge-boxes.

The time, however, was well employed in putting the troops in position and bringing up Logan's division as a reserve. The enemy occupied a semicircular ridge stretching across the main road, his right holding a piece of woods, and his center and left commanding rolling ground in his front, over which it would be necessary to pass to attack him. Two batteries were in position, one covering the road and the other near his left, having a good range across the open field.

The disposition of my troops was as follows: Boomer's brigade on the left of the road, in the timber; Holmes' brigade on his right, in the open fields; Sanborn's brigade on the right of Holmes', with skirmishers well out on his flank; John E. Smith's brigade, Logan's division, in the woods in rear of Boomer about 400 yards, in column of regiments, as a reserve; Stevenson's brigade was thrown across a ravine on Boomer's left, with directions to advance and gain a road which entered the city from the northwest; Dennis' brigade remained a short distance in rear, to guard the trains.

The rain having partially ceased, at 11 o'clock the advance was ordered, preceded by a heavy line of skirmishers. In a short time they were warmly engaged; drove back the enemy's skirmishers toward their main line and into a ravine filled with willows. Here the skirmishers halted for a few moments, and the enemy's fire becoming so heavy they could not advance any farther, they were recalled to their regiments and a charge ordered. It was responded to with cheers and determination. Not a man faltered. The whole line swept forward in most perfect order, drove the enemy out of the ravine at the point of

* But see revised statement, p. 584.

the bayonet, and charged gallantly up the hill. The enemy did not wait to receive the full force of the charge, but broke and fled precipitately, followed by our troops for 1½ miles, until we were within range of the artillery from the defenses at Jackson. MacMurray's and Dillon's batteries, following close after our infantry, were wheeled into the first advantageous position, and opened a well-directed and effective fire upon the retreating enemy. Having reached this point, the troops were halted and lines reformed, as they had become somewhat broken marching over the rough ground.

Skirmishers were immediately thrown out to the front, and officers sent to reconnoiter the enemy's position and defenses, who in a short time returned, reporting the works evacuated. The troops were immediately moved forward into the defenses, and orders sent to General Stevenson to push his brigade across to the Canton road, if possible, and cut off the enemy's retreat. This was about 3 p. m. Colonel Sanborn was directed to send the flag of one of his regiments which had borne itself most gallantly in the battle and place it on the capitol of the State of Mississippi, and shortly before 4 o'clock the flag of the Fifty-ninth Indiana was proudly waving from the dome. Sherman's command entered about the same time from the west and southwest.

The results of this victory were the capture of Jackson with seventeen pieces of artillery, the destruction of the railroads, manufacturing establishments, army stores, &c., and a loss to the enemy, in killed, wounded, and prisoners, of 845 men. Our loss in killed was 37; in wounded and missing, 228.

Crocker's division encamped within the enemy's intrenchments on the night of the 14th, and Logan's division between the battle-field and the city.

On the 15th, at 5 a. m., Logan's division started for Bolton, followed by Crocker's at 7 a. m., with instructions to march as far as he could by 4 p. m., when he would select a good place and go into camp.

Shortly before 4 o'clock, the advance came up with Hovey's division, of McClernand's corps, and went into camp on Baker's Creek, two brigades on the west side and one on the east.

Holmes' brigade, of Crocker's division, was left at Clinton for the night, and the remaining two brigades marched on and went into camp 2 miles east of Logan's division, on the main road.

At 6 a. m. on the 16th, Major-General McClernand notified me that the enemy, under Lieutenant-General Pemberton, had moved out in strong force from Vicksburg to attack us, and that his (McClernand's) columns were already in motion to meet him.

Orders were immediately given to General Logan to follow Hovey, and Crocker was directed to come forward as rapidly as possible with his whole division. After proceeding about 5 miles, and when near Champion's Hill, General Hovey sent back word that he had met the enemy in force, strongly posted on the Edwards Depot road.

The road at this point bears to the south, passing over a high commanding hill, and then makes a short turn to the west. This hill was bald, giving the enemy a commanding point for his artillery, and was really the key of the position.

The enemy's right was on and in the vicinity of this hill, his center and left bearing off in the direction of Edwards Depot through a piece of woods and behind a rail-fence on the crest of a ridge, with woods in his rear and open fields in front. General Hovey's division was immediately deployed in line of battle to move against the hill, supported on the right by Leggett's (late Dennis') and Smith's brigades.

De Golyer's battery in the mean time opened a well-directed fire against the enemy posted behind the fence, and Rogers' battery of 24-pounder howitzers, supported by Smith's brigade, took a position to the right and well in advance, and poured in a most destructive enfilading fire, under cover of which the line advanced and the crest was gained. A desperate attempt was made to charge and capture Rogers' battery, which was promptly repelled by Smith's brigade, which drove back the enemy with great slaughter, and captured a large number of prisoners. Stevenson's brigade, with the right refused, was advanced at double-quick into a piece of woods on the right of Smith, upon gaining which he was ordered to throw forward his right, so as to make his line of battle nearly parallel with the general line, and to move forward and drive the enemy from a hill in his front, where batteries were being placed. This movement was most brilliantly executed.

The brigade charged across the ravines, up the hill, and through an open field, captured seven guns, portions of two batteries, several hundred prisoners, and swept across the road, thus cutting the enemy off from his direct line of retreat to Edwards Depot. In the mean time Hovey, Leggett, and Smith were hotly engaged. Two regiments of Sanborn's brigade were ordered to the support of Hovey, one to the support of Smith, and one to Leggett. The enemy, discovering that their left was turned, now made a most desperate attempt to turn ours, precipitating all their available force on Hovey, whose division, having been fighting for three and a half hours, was very much fatigued and partially out of ammunition.

The tide of battle was turning against us, when Boomer's brigade came up, and with its able and heroic commander at the head went gallantly into the contest, checked the advance of the enemy, and held him at bay until Holmes' brigade came up, when a dashing charge was made, the enemy rolled back, and the battle won. In the charge the Seventeenth Iowa captured the colors of the Thirty-first Alabama and Waddell's Alabama battery (four pieces).

As soon as the cartridge-boxes could be filled with ammunition, the pursuit was ordered and kept up until dark; Stevenson's brigade and De Golyer's battery in advance, followed by Carr's and Osterhaus' divisions, of McClernand's corps, then by Smith's and Leggett's brigades, and Crocker's division, except Holmes' brigade, which was left to guard the wounded, assist in burying the dead, securing the spoils taken from the enemy, &c., the troops bivouacking for the night from 2 to 5 miles in advance of the battle-field.

This, by far the hardest fought battle of all since crossing at Bruinsburg, and the most decided victory for us, was not won without the loss of many brave men, who heroically periled their lives for their country's honor. Their determined spirit still animates their living comrades, who feel that the blood poured out on Champion's Hill was not spilt in vain. Every man of Logan's and Crocker's divisions was engaged in the battle.

Our loss was: Killed, 166; wounded and missing, 894.* That of the enemy: Killed, ——; wounded and prisoners, ——; —— pieces of cannon, two stand of colors, besides quantities of small-arms and ammunition.

At 6 a. m. on the 17th, started for Black River, Logan in the advance, followed by Quinby, who had arrived and assumed command of his division, and reached a point on the river about 3 miles to the north

* But see revised statement, Part II, p. 9.

and east of the railroad bridge. Ransom's brigade, of McArthur's division, now came up, and was ordered to construct a bridge across the Big Black for the passage of his brigade and Logan's division, and Quinby was ordered to construct one for the passage of his division. Ransom's was a solid raft bridge of timber, and Quinby's was built of timber and cotton bales. Both were completed at an early hour on the 18th, and the command crossed over, with the exception of Sanborn's brigade, which was directed to remain and guard the bridges and prisoners until Holmes came up.

After crossing the river, the command moved in a northwest direction on a plantation road until the Bridgeport and Vicksburg road was reached, when that became our line of march, following Sherman's corps. Ransom's brigade arrived before Vicksburg just after dark, and took a position on Sherman's left, Logan's and Quinby's bivouacking on the road, where there was water.

The next morning (the 19th) they came up. Logan was placed on the left of Ransom, Leggett's brigade in reserve, and Quinby on the left of Logan, Holmes' brigade in reserve, and the siege of Vicksburg commenced.

In bringing this report to a close, I cannot express in words my admiration of the officers and men of my command who were engaged in this short but active and brilliant campaign. Their unswerving patriotism, patient endurance, and heroic determination have carried them through without a murmur, and won for them imperishable renown. Marching for a distance of over 200 miles through an enemy's country in the short space of eighteen days, without tents, and barely transportation enough to carry ammunition, the major part of the time without rations except such as could be procured from the country, fighting or taking part in five distinct battles, besides almost daily skirmishing, they have shown what soldiers can do when firmly resolved never to see their country's flag dishonored. Where all did so well, it is impossible for me to discriminate.

To Maj. Gen. John A. Logan and Brig. Gen. M. M. Crocker, commanding divisions; Brig. Gens. John E. Smith, John D. Stevenson, M. D. Leggett, Elias S. Dennis, and Cols. John B. Sanborn, George B. Boomer, and Samuel A. Holmes, commanding brigades, I am especially indebted for the able and spirited manner in which they performed their duties.

The members of my personal staff—Lieut. Col. William T. Clark, assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff; Lieut. Col. William E. Strong, assistant inspector-general; Maj. L. S. Willard, Capts. G. R. Steele and D. H. Gile, aides-de-camp; Lieut. Col. James Wilson, Thirteenth Iowa Infantry, provost-marshal; Lieut. Col. A. M. Powell, chief of artillery; Maj. Daniel Chase, Thirteenth U. S. Infantry; Surg. J. H. Boucher, medical director; Surg. F. Lloyd, Sixteenth Iowa Infantry; Capt. A. Hickenlooper, chief of engineers; Lieut. J. W. Mong, Third Ohio Battery, ordnance officer; Lieut. K. Knox, Thirteenth U. S. Infantry, commissary of musters; Lieut. J. D. Vernay, Eleventh Illinois Infantry, acting aide-de-camp—all distinguished themselves, and deserve the thanks of a grateful people. Zealous and earnest, they were ever in the work when duty required, and ready to share the post of danger.

Signal officers—Capt. L. M. Rose (chief signal officer), Eleventh Illinois Infantry; Captain [H. W. B.] Hoyt, One hundred and thirteenth Illinois Infantry; First Lieut. G. H. McNary, Tenth Pennsylvania Reserve Corps; First Lieut. T. C. Morris, Company H, Forty-fifth Regiment Illinois Infantry; Second Lieut. T. C. Withers, Company H,

Twenty-fourth Regiment Indiana Infantry—rendered most important services on the various battle-fields, watching and reporting the movements of the enemy, and freely exposed themselves to danger when necessity required.

Capt. A. Hickenlooper, Fifth Ohio Battery, and chief engineer of the corps, deserves special mention for his ability, untiring energy, and skill in making reconnaissances, maps of the routes passed over, superintending the repairs and construction of bridges, &c., exposing himself constantly night and day, and merits some substantial recognition of his services.

Appended please find tabular statement of losses in the various engagements.* For details, reference will be had to the accompanying division and brigade reports.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Chief of Staff, Dept. of the Tennessee.

No. 23.

Report of Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, including operations April 25–May 19.

HDQRS. THIRD DIV., SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
In Field, near Vicksburg, Miss., May 26, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the following as the part taken by my command in the several marches against and the engagements with the enemy since leaving our camp at Milliken's Bend, La., on April 25:

In compliance with special orders, I left Milliken's Bend with my command on the morning of April 25, marching a distance of 9½ miles to Richmond, on Roundaway Bayou, encamping near the town.

On the night of April 26, my command encamped at Good Hope plantation, 10 miles distant from Richmond.

I moved forward with my command on the morning of the 27th, a distance of 10 miles from my last encampment, in a heavy rain, which continued all day.

Early on the morning of the 28th, I again moved forward, and encamped near Hard Times Landing, on the Mississippi River, below Vicksburg, and 13 miles from the camp of the night of the 27th.

At 1 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, in pursuance of orders, I moved forward on the road to Hard Scrabble Landing, and encamped near that place, having marched on that day 19 miles.

On the 30th, I moved to a point on the west side of the river below Grand Gulf, Miss., when, on the afternoon and night of that day, the First and Third Brigades of my division, commanded by Brig. Gens. John E. Smith and John D. Stevenson, respectively, were taken on transports and landed across the river at a landing 10 miles below Grand Gulf, known as Bruinsburg. The Second Brigade, Brig. Gen. Elias S. Dennis commanding, crossed the river on the morning of May 1.

* Embodied in revised statements, pp. 584, 705, 750, and Part II, p. 9.

I regret the necessity of having to announce the fact that during the ferrying of my command to Bruinsburg a collision occurred between the steamboats Horizon and Moderator, in which the former sunk with Battery G, Second Illinois Light Artillery, Captain Sparrestrom commanding, on board, which was entirely lost, except a small number of horses. The men were all saved except two, who were drowned.

You will observe that a march of 70 miles was made by my command in five days, over the worst kind of roads, the axles of the batteries and wagons often scraping the ground. During the march, roads and bridges were constructed, under the direction of S. R. Tresilian, division engineer of my staff, who exhibited a great deal of energy and dispatch.

I crossed the river in person on May 1, and hastened forward to the head of the two brigades which had crossed the evening previous, and had been ordered by General Grant to move forward on the road to Port Gibson early on that morning to the support of General McClernand, who was supposed to be engaging the enemy at or near that place. I directed my assistant adjutant-general to remain at Bruinsburg and come forward with the Second Brigade as soon as it should have crossed the river.

I arrived with the First and Third Brigades at Thompson's Hill (where General McClernand's corps was engaging the enemy) at or near 12 m., and was directed to immediately form General Smith's (First) brigade on the left and General Stevenson's (Third) brigade on the right of General McClernand's command. General Smith immediately formed his brigade on the left of General Osterhaus, who was being closely pressed by a heavy force of the enemy advantageously posted. The brigade was formed in two lines, the Twentieth and Thirty-first Illinois and Twenty-third Indiana Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, Colonel McCook, and Lieutenant-Colonel Davis, respectively, constituting the first or advanced line, and the Forty-fifth and One hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois Infantry, Colonel Maltby and [Col. Thomas J. Sloan?] commanding, respectively, forming the second or reserve line, 200 yards in the rear.

The Twenty-third Indiana was ordered to advance as skirmishers in the face of the enemy, and after a severe fire, in which the entire advance line participated, succeeded in dislodging him from his position in front of the brigade. A still farther advance of the brigade in line pressed the enemy back upon a hill, when he essayed a formidable stand. To dislodge him from the position, General Smith caused his command to charge upon his entire front. Led by their gallant commander, the charge was executed with a zeal and heroism that adds another laurel to those already won by the many glorious achievements on the bloody fields of Belmont, Donelson, and Shiloh. They drove the enemy in wild disorder from the field, causing his total rout, and compelling him to leave his dead and wounded in our possession. In this engagement the First Brigade captured one piece of artillery and a number of prisoners.

The Third Brigade, General Stevenson commanding, consisting of the Eighth and Eighty-first Illinois, Seventh Missouri, and Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, commanded by Colonels Post and Dollins, Major Wakefield, and Colonel Potts, respectively, was ordered to the left, as I before stated, where it was formed to support General Burbridge, of the Thirteenth Army Corps. The line, when thus formed, filled a vacancy in General McClernand's line. The enemy in front of this brigade was in strong force. The Eighth Illinois Infantry was ordered to support the Eighth Michigan Battery, which opened a destructive fire of shell

and canister upon the enemy, compelling him to retire under cover of brush and timber. The admirable manner in which this battery was handled reflects the highest credit upon Major Stolbrand, my chief of artillery, and Captain De Golyer, commanding the battery.

At this time General Burbridge informed General Stevenson that there was a gap in his lines, which was immediately occupied by the Eighty-first Illinois. The Eighth Illinois, with their front well protected by skirmishers, was ordered to advance upon the enemy and dislodge him from the strong position which he held in front of our lines. The order was executed with great skill and bravery, and the enemy was driven back with great loss. It was at this time Colonel Post, of the Eighth Illinois, on the plea of fatigue, asked permission to retire from the field, although unhurt. The Seventh Missouri Infantry was ordered to form on the right of the Eighth Illinois Infantry (their right resting on the left of General Burbridge's line, which was unsupported), under a heavy fire, in order to dislodge the enemy in our front. This was done after a short though severe contest.

In obedience to orders from superior headquarters, the Third Ohio Battery, Captain Williams commanding, and Battery L, Second Illinois Light Artillery, Captain Bolton commanding, were left at Hard Times Landing. The scarcity of transportation detained Battery D, First Illinois Light Artillery, Captain Rogers commanding, on the Louisiana side of the river until a late hour in the afternoon of the day of the engagement. The troops, during the whole time engaged, acted with the utmost bravery, driving the enemy at all points.

Near nightfall the enemy were in full retreat, and I might say in total rout. The Second Brigade, under General Dennis, having arrived near the close of the fight, was formed in rear of General Smith as a support, but did not become engaged. As soon as the enemy commenced retreating, I ordered the First Brigade in pursuit, which was followed by the Second Brigade. About 4 miles from the field of action, the enemy fired upon our advance, without, however, doing any injury whatever, although they were posted upon the crest of a hill in a splendid position. My line was instantly formed, and the fire returned, which caused the enemy to again retreat precipitately.

It being at this time after nightfall, and quite dark, my command was formed in line on the crest of the hill where we had received the fire, which position we occupied during the night.

On the morning of the 2d, the Third Brigade joined the remainder of the command, and we moved forward to Port Gibson, and entered the town while the bridges over Bayou Pierre were burning.

At about 8 o'clock, the First and Second Brigades were ordered forward on the Vicksburg road. They forded the bayou a few miles above the town, and moved around to within 3 miles of the place, on the opposite side of the bayou, finding no enemy, but securing a large amount of bacon, which was used by my command.

On the night of the 2d, we bivouacked on the north fork of Bayou Pierre, within 2 miles of Willow Springs, where the enemy were reported to be in strong force behind fortifications.

After repairing the suspension bridge which the enemy had set on fire, we crossed at 4 o'clock on the morning of the 3d, expecting to meet with formidable resistance. The enemy, however, profiting by the lesson we had given him on May 1, fired only a few shots from a gun of small caliber and pursued his hasty retreat.

My escort company, with that of General McPherson, was sent forward to pick up stragglers from the retreating foe, and pursued him so

closely that a sharp skirmish ensued between him and the two escorts, Captains Foster and Hotaling commanding, and the advance of my division, which was a portion of the First Brigade. The Second Brigade was thrown in advance, and continued the pursuit of the enemy on the Grand Gulf road, taking 154 prisoners during the afternoon.

Late in the afternoon our skirmishers reached Hankinson's Ferry, over Big Black River, while a working party of the enemy were in the act of destroying the bridge. The reserve skirmishers and advance guard of the Second Brigade, commanded by Colonel Force, Twentieth Ohio Infantry, crossed the bridge and secured many working implements, which the enemy was forced to abandon in his hasty flight.

On the morning of the 4th, the enemy opened an artillery fire upon the camp of the Second Brigade from the opposite side of the river. They would no doubt have effected serious injury upon us but for the admirable manner in which Captains De Golyer, Rogers, and Williams (who had joined the division on that morning) replied to them. A few well-directed shots from the batteries silenced the enemy's fire, dismounting one gun and killing 2 men.

We bivouacked at Hankinson's Ferry three days, and on the morning of the 7th, in pursuance of orders, I moved on the Clinton road to Rocky Springs, where we remained during the remainder of the 7th and the 8th.

At 12.30 p. m. on the 9th, we moved forward in the direction of Raymond. I continued the march until the morning of the 12th, halting at night, while nothing of interest occurred.

On the morning of that day my command was ordered to move in advance of General Crocker's division. At about 9 a. m. the advance of my column discovered the advance pickets of the enemy. General Dennis' (Second) brigade being in advance, I caused it to be formed in line of battle across the road, and ordered General Dennis to move forward. The First and Third Brigades moved by the flank on the road, in easy supporting distance, nearly 1½ miles, to a commanding position upon the summit of a hill about 2 miles from the town of Raymond. I caused the command to halt.

A reconnaissance was then made by the two escort companies belonging to General McPherson and myself, which proved the enemy was in force in my immediate front. I caused the front of the brigade in line to be well protected with a line of skirmishers, and ordered it to move forward cautiously and ascertain the position of the enemy. Our skirmishers soon became engaged with those of the enemy, driving them beyond the creek which separated our line from that of the enemy.

I was soon satisfied that the enemy were formed in line of battle along the margin of the creek, under the cover of the bank, awaiting our attack. I caused General Smith's brigade to be brought forward and formed on the right of General Dennis' line. I then ordered an advance of the two brigades thus formed, and the engagement soon became general, the enemy having every advantage of position and a knowledge of the ground over which the contest was to take place. The largest portion of the First Brigade was compelled to advance a distance of 400 yards through an open field under a very heavy combined fire of infantry and artillery, and I am delighted to say that every man stepped promptly and majestically forward, and did his duty as a soldier. Generals Dennis and Smith soon gained the cover of a line of fence and timber quite near the enemy, and kept up a continuous fire upon his lines.

The Third Brigade was ordered forward, and placed in line of battle

on the right of General Smith, and soon became hotly engaged with the enemy's left.

At the commencement of the engagement, De Golyer's (Eighth Michigan) battery was placed in position on each side of the main road and near a bridge across a ravine in which the infantry of the enemy was posted, and immediately engaged the enemy's artillery, which was posted on rising ground about 800 yards distant. After remaining in this position about an hour, this battery was removed, and placed in a new position on the left of the Second Brigade or extreme left of the division.

The engagement raged with great fury for at least two hours, during the first hour of which the enemy seemed to be concentrated upon the left of the First and right of the Second Brigades. During the engagement, the Eighth Illinois Infantry was detached from the Third Brigade and moved to the support of the Twentieth Illinois Infantry, which had penetrated to the ravine, where they charged the enemy with bayonets and materially aided the First Brigade in dislodging him. Rogers' battery of 24-pounder howitzers was placed in position during the most severe part of the engagement, and did some most splendid execution, until the enemy was forced to retreat before the superior courage and gallantry of my command. Captain Williams' (Third Ohio) battery was ordered to a position on the left flank, but was only slightly engaged. He was placed in that position to prevent any flank movement which the enemy might contemplate in that direction.

In this engagement Colonel McCook, of the Thirty-first Illinois Infantry, was wounded in the foot, which compelled him to retire from the field. Lieutenant-Colonel Richards, Twentieth Illinois Infantry, while gallantly leading his regiment forward, was killed by a musket-shot through the left breast.

It is impossible for me to give too much credit to the men engaged in the terrible conflict. Every officer and soldier did his duty most nobly. My command pressed the enemy back under a most galling fire, and crossed the creek over which we had been fighting by wading it. The enemy were soon in total rout. I pushed my command forward as rapidly as possible into Raymond, but the enemy had, by taking two roads, escaped only about twenty minutes before my advance reached the town. We then, in pursuance of orders, went into camp on the night of May 12.

On the morning of May 13, in obedience to orders, I moved forward in rear of General Crocker's division, on the Jackson road, and on that night bivouacked at Clinton, on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad.

My command moved forward on the next morning on the Jackson road, and in rear of General Crocker's division, which, when near that place, became engaged with the enemy. My command was immediately formed to support his column, which was advancing in line of battle. His first advance repulsed the enemy, and gave us possession of the city of Jackson. My command was not engaged that day. We encamped that night on the west side of the city.

On the morning of the 15th, pursuant to special orders, I left my encampment on the main road, 2 miles west of Jackson, and marched in the direction of Clinton. Leaving the Jackson road at this point, I proceeded on what is known as the Edwards Depot road a distance of 7 miles, and encamped on Turkey Creek, with my right and left resting on the road. Here my advance came up with General Hovey's division. The Third Brigade, General John D. Stevenson commanding, was brought up and formed upon General Hovey's left at a point crossing

the railroad leading from Raymond to Edwards Depot, where strong lines of pickets were thrown out connecting with General Hovey, to avoid any flank movement of the enemy. The First Brigade, General John E. Smith, was assigned a position on the right of the road, to support the Eighth Michigan Battery, Captain De Golyer, and Company D, First Illinois Light Artillery, both of which were placed in positions commanding the road. The Second Brigade, General E. S. Dennis commanding, was held as a reserve in the rear of General Stevenson.

On the following morning (the 16th instant), at 5 a. m., General M. D. Leggett, by the expiration of his leave of absence, having resumed command, vice General Dennis, relieved by special orders and required to report to General Quinby, commanding the Seventh Division, followed up with his command directly in the rear of General Hovey's division. Proceeding a distance of 2 miles, I found General Hovey's command drawn up in line of battle, his right resting on the left of the main road, the enemy, as I learned, having been discovered in force strongly posted on a high ridge known as Champion's Hill, and apparently well supported by artillery. I caused the Second Brigade, General Leggett, with the Twentieth Ohio, Colonel Force commanding, and the Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Shedd commanding, constituting the advance line, to move forward and form on the right of General Hovey. The Eighth Michigan Battery, Captain De Golyer commanding, having been previously placed in position 200 yards in rear of General Leggett, Company A, of the Twentieth Ohio, and Company B, Thirtieth Illinois Infantry, were deployed as skirmishers. This order, under a sharp fire from the enemy, was promptly executed, General Leggett advancing, as directed, across a small ravine, and forming on General Hovey's right. The First Brigade, General Smith commanding, was ordered up in line, with the left resting on the right of General Leggett; Company D, First Illinois Light Artillery, Captain Rogers, occupied the right of General Smith. The Third Brigade, General John D. Stevenson commanding, was brought up and held as a reserve in the rear of the center of the two brigades, remaining in that position about one hour, during which time the First and Second Brigades engaged the enemy.

The Third Ohio Battery, Captain Williams, formed on a commanding ridge in rear of my lines, acting as a reserve. The Second Brigade, General Leggett, advanced to the attack in two lines, two battalions in the first and two battalions in the second line, the second line 200 yards in the rear of the first line.

The First Brigade, General Smith, also advanced in two lines, three battalions in the first line and two battalions in the second line. The enemy were strongly posted in the outskirts of the timber, directly in my front, and were discovered in force behind the fence, from which, after a spirited resistance, they were compelled to retire into the woods. The enemy in front of General Smith's brigade occupied a ridge overlooking a deep ravine, covered with thick underbrush, rendering an advance exceedingly difficult. The engagement became general along the entire line, the enemy advancing and contesting the forward movement with great obstinacy. The First and Second Brigades were directed to charge upon the enemy, which order, after a spirited engagement, was successfully carried out, causing the enemy to abandon his chosen position and retire under cover of a second ridge. During this engagement General Stevenson's brigade moved up on General Smith's right, advancing across a deep ravine to prevent any flank movement of the enemy. By this time a battery had been planted by the enemy

on a high piece of ground in General Stevenson's front, for the purpose, as I suppose, of subjecting the First and Second Brigades to an enfilading fire. To counteract this movement, General Stevenson was ordered to swing around his right and charge upon the enemy. Crossing an almost impassable hollow, the Third Brigade, with the Eighty-first Illinois Infantry, Colonel J. J. Dollins commanding, and the Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, Col. B. F. Potts commanding, forming the advance line, moved up in good order, made a bayonet charge as instructed, drove the enemy from their guns, capturing the entire battery, consisting of five guns.

This brilliant movement, and the glorious results which followed it, speak volumes for the commanding general and his men. Too much credit cannot be awarded for such an exhibition of gallantry. General Stevenson having turned the left flank of the enemy, drove them into a position in front of Generals Smith's and Leggett's brigades, which in the mean time had engaged the enemy with a determination and courage displayed only by veteran troops.

The result of this engagement was the capture, by the Twentieth and One hundred and Twenty-fourth Illinois and Twenty-third Indiana Infantry, of a battery consisting of six pieces of artillery and a large number of prisoners. The action of the First and Second Brigades, exposed to a raking fire of the enemy, protected by natural defenses, merits my warmest commendation. During the action, which lasted from 10 a. m. until late in the afternoon, the Second Brigade, General Leggett, held its position on General Hovey's right, although repeated efforts were made by the enemy to break through the left. The point occupied by General Leggett was selected by the enemy for a grand attack. The coolness and unflinching bravery evinced by this brigade, and the successful manner in which it repulsed a superior number of the enemy, cannot be too highly applauded. The contest was fiercely waged upon both sides, resulting in the retreat of the enemy. The respective batteries commanded by Captains De Golyer, Rogers, and Williams, under the personal supervision of Major Stolbrand, rendered incalculable aid in effectually shelling the enemy wherever directed. The Third Brigade, General Stevenson commanding, in addition to the guns before enumerated, captured many prisoners, numbering 1,300 in all, who, in connection with those taken by the First and Second Brigades, were turned over to the provost-marshal of my division.

At 4 o'clock I received information of the enemy's retreat. General Stevenson's brigade, with De Golyer's battery, was pushed forward in pursuit. The brigade advanced upon the double-quick on the main road leading to Big Black River to a point 2 miles beyond the battle-field, shelling the enemy and spreading great consternation in his ranks. Night coming on, my command halted on the main road, distant 3 miles, from Big Black River Bridge.

To Captain De Golyer much credit is due for the energy displayed in performing the part assigned him by General Stevenson.

On the morning of the 17th, I moved forward a distance of 2 miles, and encamped on the right of the main road, 1 mile from Big Black River Bridge. Here I was detained until the morning of the 18th. A bridge having been constructed the night previous across Big Black River, I proceeded with my command on a cross-road intersecting the main Vicksburg and Bridgeport road at a point distant 3 miles from Big Black River. Was detained here some time to enable the rear of General Sherman's corps to pass, it having been assigned the advance

upon Vicksburg. Moving forward the distance of 10 miles, I remained over night.

On the morning of the 19th, I resumed the advance in the direction of Vicksburg, 2 miles in the rear of which place I arrived with my command at 10 a. m.

In submitting this report, which is hurried and somewhat imperfect, I am pained to record the loss of Colonel Richards, commanding the Twentieth Illinois Infantry, mortally wounded in the battle of Raymond while in the discharge of his official duties; an efficient officer, the loss will be keenly felt by his fine regiment, greatly reduced by casualties incident to long service in the field.

I am also grieved to announce the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Snook, commanding the Sixty-eighth Ohio Infantry, killed in the action of Champion's Hill.

To particularize numerous instances of personal valor, where all evinced such readiness to brave the danger of the battle-field, would be unjust to the general good deportment manifested by the officers and men of the Third Division. Exposed to unusual hardships in an arduous campaign of thirty days' duration, with insufficient transportation, marching a distance of 200 miles, and actively engaged in four well-contested battles with an ambushed enemy, the willingness with which all orders were carried out affords the commanding general a conclusive proof of their soldierly qualities and strict discipline.

To my brigade commanders, upon all of whom weighty responsibilities were imposed, the fidelity with which their various duties were discharged contributed to the success which has attended our arms. All of them gave me repeated indications of the coolness, firmness, and decision of character so essential in time of action.

To Major Stolbrand, my chief of artillery, I am indebted for valuable aid. To Major Townes, assistant adjutant-general; Maj. John C. Fry, provost-marshal; Captain Wheaton, acting assistant inspector-general; Captains Holcomb and Hotaling, Lieutenants Moore, Hoover, and Davis, aides-de-camp, and to Captain Wickizer, assistant quartermaster, and William H. Holbrook, acting commissary of subsistence, I am indebted for the prompt discharge of their various duties on the various marches and the several fields of action, rendering me incalculable aid through their efficiency.

The following is a list of the casualties which occurred in the several battles in which my command has been engaged since the 1st instant:

THOMPSON'S HILL, MAY 1.

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
First Brigade, General John E. Smith commanding:				
Commissioned officers	.....	4	.....	4
Enlisted men	5	23	.....	28
Second Brigade, General E. S. Dennis commanding:				
Commissioned officers	.....	1	.....	1
Enlisted men	.....	2	.....	2
Third Brigade, General John D. Stevenson commanding:				
Commissioned officers	.....	1	.....	1
Enlisted men	1	7	2	10
Total	.....	.....	.....	46

RAYMOND, MAY 12.

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
First Brigade, General John E. Smith commanding:				
Commissioned officers	4	10	2	16
Enlisted men	33	163	23	219
Second Brigade, General E. S. Dennis commanding:				
Commissioned officers	.....	2	.....	2
Enlisted men	10	73	.....	83
Third Brigade, General John D. Stevenson commanding:				
Commissioned officers	3	5	.....	8
Enlisted men	15	82	7	104
Total	.....	.....	.....	432

CHAMPION'S HILL, MAY 16.

First Brigade, General John E. Smith commanding:				
Commissioned officers	.....	13	.....	13
Enlisted men	22	91	9	122
Second Brigade, General M. D. Leggett commanding:				
Commissioned officers	2	14	.....	16
Enlisted men	17	172	2	191
Third Brigade, General John D. Stevenson commanding:				
Commissioned officers	.....	4	.....	4
Enlisted men	7	32	18	57
Total	.....	.....	.....	403

The entire loss in the artillery of the Third Division, Maj. C. J. Stolbrand commanding, in the three engagements enumerated in the foregoing report, was as follows: De Golyer's (Eighth Michigan) Battery, enlisted men killed, 2; wounded, 3; total, 5.

RECAPITULATION.

Thompson's Hill, May 1	46
Raymond, May 12	*432
Champion's Hill, May 16	403
Artillery in the three engagements	5
Grand total	886

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN A. LOGAN,
Major-General of Volunteers.

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 24.

Report of Col. Manning F. Force, Twentieth Ohio Infantry, Second Brigade.

——— —, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry arrived on the field in front of Port Gibson on the morning of the 1st instant, too late to take part in the engagement of that day.

* But see revised statement, p. 706.

On the 3d, the regiment, marching at the head of the brigade on the left road, following a retreating column of the enemy, picked up a number of stragglers as prisoners. The skirmishers, under Captain Hills, Company D, in advance of the regiment, reached the temporary bridge over the Big Black Ferry while a scouting party of the enemy was in the act of destroying the bridge. We drove them off. I crossed the bridge, and found their implements—14 axes, 2 spades, 1 adze, 1 augur, several coils of rope and chains, all of which I had brought in and kept under guard till relieved by a company of the Thirtieth Illinois Volunteer Infantry.

There are no casualties to report.

The fire of the party at the ferry struck one man, who fell into the river, and is supposed to be killed; another, supposed killed (he was carried off by his comrades), and struck a third.

A statement of prisoners taken is appended.* The continuous forced march for nine days, with loss of sleep and sore feet, together with the feeling that they only marched while others fought, told severely on the men on the 3d. But as soon as the word was given that an enemy was in front, and the firing of skirmishers was heard, every eye lighted up. We pushed forward, and then with eager alacrity they showed the utmost cheerful fortitude, which Napoleon accounts as the first virtue of a soldier.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. F. FORCE,
Colonel, Commanding Twentieth Ohio Volunteers.

Lieut. J. C. DOUGLASS,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 25.

Report of Brig. Gen. John D. Stevenson, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade.

HDQRS. THIRD BRIG., THIRD DIV., SEVENTEENTH A. C.,
Crossing Big Black River, Mississippi, May 6, 1863.

MAJOR: I herewith submit a report of the part taken by my command in the recent battle of Thompson's Hill and the skirmishes of the subsequent days.

On the night of the 30th of April, having crossed to the east bank of the Mississippi, Bruinsburg, I received orders to move with all speed in the direction of Port Gibson with my entire command. Accordingly, at 7 a. m. on the 1st instant, I commenced the march, my command consisting of the Eighth Illinois Infantry, Eighty-first Illinois Infantry, Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, Seventh Missouri Infantry, and De Golyer's Eighth Michigan Battery, aggregating 1,850 infantry and four James' rifles, 6-pounders, and two 12-pounder howitzers. The day being intensely hot, the men necessarily suffered much on the march, but the continuous cannonading in front, distinctly heard, seemed to inspire the entire command, so that a distance of 15 miles was accomplished about 12 m.

Reporting to Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, was ordered to the front, some 2 miles distant, to report to Maj. Gen. John A. McClernand. This

* A total of 56.

2 miles' march was much impeded by stragglers from the field, returning batteries, &c., but in less than forty minutes we were on the field. I was immediately ordered to form line of battle on the left of Brigadier-General Burbridge, filling up a space between the left and right of General McClernand's line. Before placing my command in position, I made a careful reconnaissance of the ground, and soon discovered a large force of sharpshooters and infantry immediately in my front, occupying a natural rifle-pit, formed by a wash in the main road; also concealed behind a long line of fence and skirts of brush and timber. This force was supported by a battery of four 24-pounder howitzers, in a commanding position in their rear, so as to completely rake any column or line that might be advanced against their infantry. Finding the enemy thus disposed, I immediately ordered the Eighth Illinois Infantry, under command of Col. John P. Post, into line of battle, under the crest of a hill, about 200 yards distant from the advance of the enemy. At the same time suggested to Major Stolbrand, chief of artillery, and Captain De Golyer, to place his guns in position on the crest of the hill, the Eighth Illinois Infantry acting as a support to his battery. As soon as this disposition was made, De Golyer opened with canister and shell upon the rebel sharpshooters and infantry, causing considerable commotion among them, and evidently causing them to retire under their cover of brush and timber. So soon as this was effected, the firing of the battery ceased, there being all the time a spirited fire returned from the rebel sharpshooters, resulting in the killing and wounding of a number of men at the point occupied by De Golyer's guns.

At this time, General Burbridge informing me that there was a gap in his line, and asking for a regiment to cover the ground, I ordered Col. James J. Dollins, with his regiment, Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers, with his front well covered with skirmishers, to immediately occupy the vacant space, which order he obeyed with the utmost promptness. Discovering immediately in advance of the Eighth Illinois Volunteers, 200 yards distant, that there was a commanding hill held by the rebels, which, if we could gain, would give us command of the ground, I ordered the Eighth Illinois, with their line well covered with skirmishers thrown out in advance, to enter a dense canebrake separating them from the hill I proposed to occupy. They promptly moved forward, by the flank of companies, and, after a spirited skirmish with the advance skirmishers, forced the enemy to retire, and occupied the hill. At this point, Colonel Post, of the Eighth Illinois Volunteers, in the face of the enemy, left his command, and came to where I was, some 200 yards distant, and asked permission, on plea of fatigue, to turn over his command to his junior officer, which I instantly assented to, and did not see him again on the field. I then, finding the enemy stronger than I apprehended, ordered the Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, Col. B. F. Potts commanding, to support the Eighth Illinois, advancing over the same ground, which movement was promptly executed. I then, in order to dislodge the enemy from the road in our front, ordered the Seventh Missouri Infantry, Maj. Edwin Wakefield commanding, to occupy the ground on the right of the Eighth Illinois, their right resting on the left of General Burbridge's line, which was done under a heavy fire from the enemy, killing 1 man and wounding a number of others.

Having made this disposition of my command, an advance of the whole line was then ordered, which was met by a spirited fire from the enemy. Finding it impossible to dislodge the enemy with infantry, I caused the ground under the crest of the hill, occupied by the Eighth

Illinois, to be occupied by De Golyer's battery, they being effectually protected by the infantry on their flanks and rear. As soon as the guns were in battery, they were run up by hand to the crest of the hill, and a most unexpected and terrible fire opened upon the enemy, dispersing their infantry from the ground in rapid flight, and drawing upon the battery the fire of the battery of the enemy. Then there commenced one of the fiercest artillery fights of the day, lasting more than an hour, and resulting in the complete silencing of the enemy's guns, their whole force retiring from the field, leaving whilst my attention was directed to this part of the field, which terminated the battle in our front. The brigades on my right had been retired to a line some distance in the rear, leaving the Eighty-first Illinois and some Iowa regiment (the number not now recollected) entirely unsupported. Not being advised that this move was in contemplation, or knowing where the force was retired, I immediately ordered the Eighty-first and the other regiment to retire to a line which would place the entire command in the same position as to be readily and advantageously used. Finding the enemy had entirely retired from the field, and it now being nightfall, the entire command bivouacked on the ground.

During the entire day the men behaved with splendid spirit, and evinced those qualities that constitute a truly brave and reliable soldiery. To Colonels Dollins and Potts, Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess, and Major Wakefield, commanding the several infantry regiments, the utmost praise is due for the promptness, coolness, and courage displayed by each. To Major Stolbrand, chief of artillery, and Captain De Golyer, Eighth Michigan Battery, and every man in the battery, the highest meed of praise is due. No officer in the field, under my observation, evinced more skill, caution, and courage than Captain De Golyer, and he and his men are worthy of special notice.

To my personal staff—Adjutant Whitehead, Lieutenant Callsen, Seventeenth Illinois Infantry, aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant Williams, Eighth Illinois Volunteers, aide-de camp—I am indebted for the promptness and accuracy with which they delivered all orders during the day, passing to all points of the field wherever required.

I herewith transmit the reports of the several subordinate commanders, containing accurate statements of the casualties of the day. Regretting the necessity of reporting any loss, I must attribute our small loss to the coolness and courage of the officers and men whilst under fire.

At daylight on the 2d instant, the enemy being no longer in our immediate front, I moved my command on the main road in the direction of Port Gibson, about 1 mile from the town, under direction of Maj. Gen. John A. Logan. I changed my line of march to a point on Bayou Pierre, where the enemy were in force, engaged in the destruction of road and railroad bridges, and being prepared to resist our farther advance. Upon careful examination of the ground, the Seventh Missouri Volunteers, under command of Lieut. Col. W. S. Oliver, who, during the preceding night, had come up with the command, was deployed as skirmishers, and ordered to advance to the edge of the bayou and develop the force of the enemy. This order was executed in the finest style, and resulted in ascertaining the presence of a large force of the enemy, protected by rifle-pits and with twelve pieces of artillery in position. A most lively fire was kept up by our whole line of skirmishers, under the immediate direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver, who was at all points of his line during the day. Finding the enemy thus strongly posted, Major-General Logan, being present, caused De Golyer's battery to be posted on the right of our line and a battery of 20-pounder

Parrotts on the left, commanding the position of the enemy. The cannonading on our side continuing for at least an hour, and having effected all that could be effected, a bridge in the mean time being constructed at the town of Port Gibson, the batteries and skirmishers were withdrawn, and the whole force put in march for the bridge; crossing which, we have continued the pursuit of the retreating enemy to this point without again encountering them. At the skirmish at the bridge, I regret to say Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver received a painful wound in the foot, causing him to leave the field. The enemy, I have every reason to believe, received considerable damage, the extent of which could not be ascertained, as under cover of night the whole force retired.

All of which I respectfully submit.

JOHN D. STEVENSON,
Brig. Gen., Comdg. Third Brig., Third Div., Seventeenth A. C.

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 26.

Report of Col. James J. Dollins, Eighty-first Illinois Infantry.

NEAR BLACK RIVER, MISSISSIPPI,
May 4, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report to you the part taken by my regiment—Eighty-first Illinois Volunteer Infantry—in the engagement with the enemy near Port Gibson.

On the 1st instant, we were ordered to march at 8 a. m. from the river, on the Port Gibson road, and arrived at the battle-ground, some 20 miles distant, by 1 p. m., where, in compliance with our orders, I caused my regiment to unsling knapsacks, and moved up and took my position in the line of battle assigned me by Brig. Gen. John D. Stevenson, my left connected with the Thirty-second Ohio Infantry, of General Stevenson's brigade, and the right with the left of General Burbridge's brigade. Agreeably to orders, I threw forward my skirmishers and advanced in line of battle.

My skirmishing companies (Company B, commanded by Capt. Thomas Hightower, and Company D, commanded by Second Lieut. Henry Miars) had advanced but a short distance before engaging the advance of the enemy in spirited skirmishing. I advanced my line steadily across a ravine to my front and up a steep hillside, through an almost impenetrable canebrake. On reaching the summit of the hill, the enemy poured a severe volley of musketry into our ranks, which was returned in a spirited manner, and resulted in driving the enemy from the hill, with the loss of 2 men on our side, either killed or taken prisoners, and 1 severely wounded. The loss on the rebel side could not be definitely ascertained, but was, doubtless, much greater than was sustained by my regiment. In the mean time brisk skirmishing was kept up by flank companies directly in front of our line, resulting in every instance in driving the enemy.

I advanced my line forward into an open field to the front, and within 300 yards of the enemy's line of both infantry and artillery, and ordered my men to lie down directly under the brow of a hill and in full view of the enemy's field artillery; their gunners were picked off around their

guns by men from my line. They rained solid shot, shell, grape, and canister at us for an hour and a half, and in many instances their shot struck in advance of the line and ricochetted or bounded over us while in position. Captain De Golyer's battery from our side opened upon the battery of the enemy that was directly in our front, thus placing us directly under the cross-fire of two batteries for upward of an hour. The whistling of the shots over us was indeed sublime and musical, but not a man of us was hurt. It was here, and at that time, that I received an order from General John D. Stevenson, commanding Third Brigade, Third Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, to move my regiment back, by the flank, to where the line was first formed.

I feel truly grateful to the members of my staff for their good behavior on this occasion; each did his duty well. All the line officers and men discharged their duty as good officers and soldiers always do. This was the first engagement my regiment was ever in, and I must be permitted to say, in justice to them, that their gallantry and behavior on that occasion was only equaled by old and well-tried veteran soldiers. The names of the 2 men that were killed or taken prisoners are John Coffey and Julius Dodson, and Claus Stamps was severely wounded, all privates in Company D. Second Lieut. Henry Miars, in command of the right skirmishing company, is entitled to the respect of his superior officers for the able manner in which he commanded his company.

I am, adjutant, very respectfully, yours,

JAMES J. DOLLINS,
Colonel, Commanding Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers.

Lieut. F. WHITEHEAD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 27.

Reports of Maj. Gen. William W. Loring, C. S. Army, commanding Division.

HEADQUARTERS LORING'S DIVISION,
Bovina, Miss., May 6, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of my connection with the army recently at and near Grand Gulf:

Agreeably to instructions from the lieutenant-general commanding, I left Jackson, Miss., on Friday, the 1st instant, and moved with dispatch in direction of Grand Gulf, via Edwards Depot, taking with me from Big Black Bridge two regiments of infantry and a battery of artillery of Tilghman's brigade. Upon reaching Rocky Springs, about 18 miles from Grand Gulf, we learned that the force under Brigadier-General [J. S.] Bowen had fallen back before a largely superior force from the positions in the direction of Port Gibson toward Grand Gulf. Hearing that the enemy were approaching the Grindstone Ford with the view of turning our force, which was then in a *cul-de-sac*, we ordered the two regiments and battery to move as rapidly as possible to the ford and hold it at all hazards, and then hastened to the command of General Bowen, which we found in the position reported near Grand Gulf. General Bowen informed me that his force was about 7,000 men, and then in position opposite the enemy, with a bayou between them, but that his force was wholly inadequate; besides, that he had but one day's breadstuffs and no way of getting more, for the reason that the enemy, 40,000

to 50,000 strong, were marching a column of 20,000 to turn his rear by the way of Grindstone Ford, on the Bayou Pierre; that they had repaired the bridges across the intervening streams and were then rapidly approaching. He placed in my possession information and facts to satisfy my mind that the statements were undoubtedly true. He further informed me that he was fully convinced of the necessity of taking the army out of its position, and had put off doing so, hearing that I was coming. I approved of his determination, and directed it to be done at once, determined to fall back to a position where supplies and re-enforcements could reach the army. This had scarcely been determined upon when your communication was received, stating that the army had fallen back toward Grand Gulf, and ordering it to move at once out of its position and across the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry. The necessary order was given for the movement, General [A.W.] Reynolds being sent with all possible dispatch to Grindstone Ford with his brigade, it being all-important to hold that position. From some cause or other this brigade failed to reach its destination, and it was left to the regiments before mentioned to hold it, and soon the command was in motion. Subsequently we heard of [S. M.] Barton's arrival, it being the first information we received of his approach. I placed General [Lloyd] Tilghman in command of a brigade, in addition to the two regiments and the battery referred to, with which he held the enemy in check and drove him back after he had crossed the Bayou Pierre with an advance of some fourteen regiments, with large amount of artillery. The force, with its baggage, in accordance with your orders, crossed Big Black and there remained (the other instructions having been carried out), its baggage being sent to the rear to have it out of the way in case the enemy appeared. During the crossing, and after a large portion of the command was over, I learned of the coming of Major-General [C. L.] Stevenson with a brigade.

On the following morning, Brigadier-General [S. D.] Lee, being ordered to bring up the rear, was left for that purpose at the crossing of the Big Black, and kept the enemy (which proved to be but a reconnoitering force) from coming to this side of the river, or in any way disturbing our march.

The next morning (Monday, May 4) I received your communication to hasten as rapidly as possible to Big Black Bridge and Edwards Depot, it being feared from information received that the enemy was moving rapidly in that direction. This order was obeyed. Subsequently an order was received dividing the army and sending the divisions to different positions. This was done, and I reported the facts to your headquarters.

Very respectfully, &c.,

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

—

HEADQUARTERS LORING'S DIVISION,
Forest, Miss., August 27, 1863.

COLONEL: I respectfully state that I was ordered on the night of May 1 to move with two regiments and a battery from Jackson to Port Gibson by the way of Edwards Depot.

On May 2, while passing within a few miles of Grindstone Ford, on

the Bayou Pierre, we learned from a citizen that General [John S.] Bowen, in command of a small force, had disputed the road to Port Gibson, and was repulsed by an overwhelming force of the enemy, with heavy loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners, and that, after crossing, he had destroyed the bridge over the Bayou Pierre opposite the town. We also learned that the enemy was advancing toward the ford, with the view of cutting off Bowen's retreat. The two regiments and battery with us were at once ordered to the ford, with directions to hold it. The admirable manner in which Col. A. E. Reynolds performed this duty prevented the success of the flank movement.

Upon arriving at General Bowen's camp, between the Bayou Pierre and Grand Gulf, we learned that he had made a gallant defense, but was compelled to fall back as stated; that his re-enforcements came too late and in too small numbers to prevent the enemy from landing, and afterward advancing. His information satisfied him that they had a force of nearly 50,000, and that while a portion was threatening his front a large command was marching to the Grindstone Ford for the purpose of turning him. I advised an immediate movement to save the command, then about 5,000 strong. General Bowen informed me that in this opinion he concurred, and had deferred the movement until my arrival. Time being all-important, at my request he issued orders for a speedy departure.

During the night I was informed that a dispatch had come directing what had already commenced. The admirable manner in which the orders were executed enabled the command to move out in good order with its baggage, destroying all else that could not be carried away. In the course of the early morning it reached the cross-roads, and soon after commenced the passage of Big Black River, in accordance with orders.

In the mean time the enemy was at the ford in heavy force, the command placed there holding them in check. General [Lloyd] Tilghman, with an additional brigade, was ordered to protect the column in its movement to the river, aided by General [S. D.] Lee. This was handsomely done, and we were enabled successfully to cross it. Near here and on both sides of the river we found the remainder of [Carter L.] Stevenson's division. After all had crossed, my division was ordered to Bovina, near the railroad, where it arrived on May 4.

With respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. W. LORING,
Major-General, Commanding, &c.

Col. B. S. EWELL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 28.

Reports of Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen, C. S. Army, commanding Confederate forces, with correspondence, &c.

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

Six gunboats, with two transports lashed to them, passed my batteries to-night between 9 and 10 o'clock. Enemy on Louisiana shore, below. Hurry up re-enforcements. My lines very much extended.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

General PEMBERTON.

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

The boats have moved down the river. The last are now in sight, taking mules and wagons on board.

JNO. S. BOWEN.

General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

General [E. D.] Tracy has arrived. His men are much broken down. I will fight them the other side of Port Gibson.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

Camp and fleet of the enemy 3 miles below. Their troops are moving. Cannot tell whether they will attack our left or front. When they cross again, they may move to Rodney, and not renew the attack to-day. Will keep you advised.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

There are four gunboats in Bayou Pierre. I have no guns that can check them. They can remove obstructions, and may destroy the bridge, cutting my force in two. Shall I remove all to this side, severing all communication by telegraph, or make the best of it?

JNO. S. BOWEN.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *April* 30, 1863.

Three thousand Federals were at Bethel Church, 10 miles from Port Gibson, at 3 p. m., advancing. They are still landing at Bruinsburg.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

(Same to Stevenson.)

—

GRAND GULF, *May* 1, 1863.

General [W. E.] Baldwin is coming up. Please answer my last cipher dispatch.

JNO. S. BOWEN.

General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *May* 1, 1863.

I have prepared for defense of both sides Bayou Pierre. The country and the jaded condition of [Edw. D.] Tracy's and [W. E.] Baldwin's

men forbid an advance. If it can be done to-day, I will do it. There is no raft in Bayou Pierre. I need field artillery ammunition badly (10-pounder Parrott, 6-pounder, and 12-pounder brass). Is it coming from Hankinson's? Our advance has been engaged with theirs 4 miles south of Port Gibson. Loss small and position maintained. I am compelled to keep a brigade at the Gulf, fearing a direct attack.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

GRAND GULF, *May* 1, 1863.

Prisoners taken this morning say [John A.] McClernand is in command; that three or four divisions are landed; one took a right-hand road from Rodney, and that they all number over 20,000 men. I disbelieve the report.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PORT GIBSON, *May* 1, 1863—9 a. m.

I am vastly outnumbered, but hope to hold my position—3 miles south of Port Gibson—until General [W. E.] Baldwin gets up. He is entering Port Gibson.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

NEAR PORT GIBSON, *May* 1, 1863—1.20 p. m.

We have been engaged in a furious battle ever since daylight; losses very heavy. General [Edw. D.] Tracy is killed. The Virginia battery was captured by the enemy, but is retaken. We are out of ammunition for cannon and small-arms, the ordnance trains of the re-enforcements not being here. They outnumber us trebly. There are three divisions against us. My whole force is engaged, except three regiments on Big Black, Bayou Pierre, and Grand Gulf. The men act nobly, but the odds are overpowering.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PORT GIBSON, *May* 1, 1863—3 p. m.

I still hold my position. We have fought 20,000 men since dawn, besides skirmishing last night. They are pressing me hard on the right. My center is firm; the left is weak. When can Loring get here?

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

NEAR PORT GIBSON, *May* 1, 1863—5.15 p. m.

I still hold my position. I will have to retire under cover of night to other side of Bayou Pierre and await re-enforcements. The bacon is all removed out of Port Gibson. They will not get it.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

PORT GIBSON, *May* 1, 1863—5.30.

I am falling back across Bayou Pierre. I will endeavor to hold that position until re-enforcements arrive. I have had as much meat carried over as I could. The rest will be burned to-night, as will the corn stored here. There will be very little to eat here for my own command or the re-enforcements. Want of ammunition is one of the main causes of our retreat. The men did nobly, holding out the whole day against overwhelming odds. The town will be in possession of the enemy in a few hours, and communication cut off.

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON.

—

VICKSBURG, *May* 1, 1863.

Brigadier-General BOWEN, *Grand Gulf:*

The Parrott ammunition has gone via Hankinson's. Six and 12-pounders will be sent at once. I think it unnecessary to keep a whole brigade at the Gulf. They cannot land under your guns. General Loring, with nearly two brigades, has started from Jackson to you. You had better whip them before he reaches you.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

VICKSBURG, *May* 1, 1863.

General JOHN S. BOWEN, *Port Gibson:*

I am hurrying re-enforcements; also ammunition. Endeavor to hold your own until they arrive, though it may be some time, as the distance is great.

J. C. PEMBERTON.

—

VICKSBURG, *May* 1, 1863—4.50 p. m.

General JOHN S. BOWEN, *Port Gibson:*

A brigade from here will reach you before Loring.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

VICKSBURG, *May* 1, 1863—7.30 p. m.

Brig. Gen. BOWEN, *Port Gibson:*

Is it not probable that the enemy will himself retire to-night? It is very important, as you know, to retain your present position, if possi-

ble. Your telegraphic communication will be cut off, and enemy will have road open to east. You must, however, of course, be guided by your own judgment. You and your men have done nobly. The account of the bacon is very gratifying.

J. C. P. [PEMBERTON.]

—

VICKSBURG, *May* 1, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JOHN S. BOWEN:

In case the bridge is destroyed, how far up before you could form a connection? Is the river navigable to the bridge? Is not the river so narrow at the rafts that, with field artillery and sharpshooters, its destruction could be prevented? It is of vast importance to drive enemy back and save our communications with Grand Gulf and Port Gibson. You said this evening you would fight him on the other side of Bayou Pierre. Why have you changed your mind? You have now about 9,000 men, and you ought to attack before he can greatly increase his strength.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

—

HEADQUARTERS,
Grand Gulf, May 2, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following synopsis of the battle of Port Gibson, fought by a portion of my command on May 1:

The whole of the night before, the enemy were landing troops at Bruinsburg, just south of the mouth of Bayou Pierre. From that point several roads could be reached by the enemy, all centering at Port Gibson. General [M. E.] Green had been sent out on the Bruinsburg road the day before with a force of about 1,000 men. The enemy attacked him at 1 a. m., and, after a brisk skirmish of two hours and a half duration, were repulsed. They continually received fresh troops, and renewed the attack at daylight on General Green's position.

In the mean time General [E. D.] Tracy had arrived and taken position. His force, nominally 2,200, was really not more than 1,500, and the men were completely jaded and broken down with continuous marching. The enemy's attack was sustained with great bravery until between 9 and 10 o'clock, when, overwhelmed by numbers and flanked on the right and left, General Green had to fall back. Courier after courier had been sent for General [W. E.] Baldwin, but his troops were so utterly exhausted that he could not get up in time to prevent this. General Tracy's position on the right was maintained. He himself was killed early in the action. All of General Green's artillery ammunition was exhausted when he fell back. The enemy captured two pieces of the Virginia battery, on General Tracy's left and Green's right.

Just as the retreat was taking place, General Baldwin arrived. I ordered him to form a new line, about 1 mile in rear of General Green's first position, and sent the latter to the right to assist General Tracy. General Baldwin had no artillery, and that ordered up from Grand Gulf had not arrived. Colonel [F. M.] Cockrell, with three Missouri regiments, came up soon after. Two were sent to the left and one to the right. Ammunition was scarce, especially in General Tracy's command, their ordnance train not having arrived. I now had all the force at my command on the field, excepting three regiments and two battalions, which occupied positions which I could not remove them from until the

last moment. I ordered them up about 1 o'clock, but only one of them arrived in time to cover the retreat and burn the bridges.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock I attempted, with two of Colonel Cockrell's regiments, to turn the enemy's right flank, and nearly succeeded. They formed three brigades in front of a battery to receive our charge. The first was routed, the second wavered, but the third stood firm, and, after a long and desperate contest, we had to give up the attempt. I am of opinion, however, that this attack saved the right from being overwhelmed, and kept the enemy back until nearly sunset. All day long the fight raged fiercely, our men everywhere maintaining their ground, and I hoped that I could hold it until after dark. Just before sunset a desperate attack was made by the enemy, they having again received fresh troops. My right was forced to give ground, and I was reluctantly compelled to fall back. The order was given and executed without confusion, General Baldwin, who held the center, bringing up the rear. The enemy attempted no pursuit, and all crossed in safety to this side of Bayou Pierre, destroying the bridges behind us. General Baldwin, misled by the burning of the railroad bridge and by rumors that it was the suspension bridge, took the road due north, through Port Gibson, instead of the Grand Gulf road, and unfortunately destroyed the bridge over the north fork of Bayou Pierre, cutting me off from most of the meat, which had been sent between the two forks for safety. I had sent a train around to bring it all here, and some of the wagons were cut off. They are coming in, however, and I expect none will be lost. I am endeavoring to get it over a ferry on the north fork, and, if I do not succeed, shall at all events try to destroy it. I ordered all the commissary stores left in town, mainly corn, to be burned.

I can give no estimate of losses, returns not having been handed in, but they must be severe. A section of the Virginia battery was captured by the enemy, and not retaken as reported. Two more pieces had to be left from want of horses, all having been killed. The men endeavored to drag the pieces off by hand, but had to leave them. The Hudson Battery brought off all their pieces, but had lost so many horses they were compelled to abandon their caissons. This battery suffered severely, having 20 men wounded. Nearly all the missing of the whole command can be considered among the killed and wounded, as very few prisoners were taken.

The enemy have refused to allow me to bury the dead, or visit the wounded beyond the mere sending of surgeons, who are to remain.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

P. S.—Since writing the above, I have ascertained that the enemy's force engaged exceeded 20,000, while my own did not number over 5,500.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. DEPT. MISSISSIPPI AND EAST LOUISIANA,
Vicksburg, Miss., May 4, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded, with high commendation upon the gallantry of Brig. Gen. J. S. Bowen and command, and respectfully urging that he be promoted to the rank of major-general.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. BOWEN'S DIVISION, ARMY OF MISSISSIPPI,
Vicksburg, Miss., June 4, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following detailed report of the battle of Port Gibson, fought near that place on the 1st ultimo, which has been delayed until this time for want of sufficient data from brigade commanders, their commands having been ever since almost daily engaged with the enemy.

On or about April 20, it became evident from the movements of the enemy, then closely watched by Major [Isaac F.] Harrison and a portion of my brigade in Louisiana, that he intended to pass below Vicksburg and make his lodgment in Mississippi at or near Grand Gulf. I immediately dispatched for the chief engineer of the department, to confer with him in regard to our position, and also urged the lieutenant-general commanding to send every gun and every man that could be concentrated to my assistance. The engineer officer, after a reconnaissance, fully concurred with me in my idea, that in case they passed my batteries and landed at Bruinsburg or Rodney, I should meet them south of Port Gibson and give them battle; also that it would require from 15,000 to 20,000 men to insure our success.

After the signal failure of the fleet to silence my batteries at Grand Gulf on April 29, and their subsequent passage by them under cover of darkness on the same night, I immediately commenced my dispositions to meet their army on the south side of Bayou Pierre. At the same time my water front was so extended, and presented four such vulnerable points, that nearly the whole division under my command was required to guard it, and left me no hope to fight the enemy on the spot selected unless the promised re-enforcements should reach me in time.

Finding, on the 30th, that Grant's army was crossing the Mississippi and landing at Bruinsburg, near the mouth of Bayou Pierre, I sent out Brigadier-General Green with about 450 of his own command (the remainder being posted on Big Black and Bayou Pierre), with a section of the Hudson Battery, and the Sixth Mississippi Regiment (Colonel [Robert] Lowry's), to occupy the two roads leading from Bruinsburg to Port Gibson. Tracy's brigade, Stevenson's division, arrived, jaded from a forced march and without provisions. I ordered them to halt near town, to collect stragglers, cook rations, and after a short rest to report to Green, who would point out their position.

During the afternoon I went out in person and established Green in his position; returned to Grand Gulf to ascertain what demonstrations were making upon the positions on Big Black, Bayou Pierre, and the river front; received reports of approaches being made on every one, and determined to strengthen the one on Bayou Pierre, as its passage by the enemy would have been extremely disastrous to us. I ordered all the rifled Parrotts (four 10-pounders) and the First Missouri Regiment to this point, then occupied by one regiment of Green's brigade and a section of 6-pounder pieces, making about 700 men and six pieces of artillery in all. The Second Missouri was deployed along the river below the batteries to prevent a landing at points beyond the range of our guns.

Two 12-pounder pieces and the Second [First?] Confederate Battalion, under Lieutenant-Colonel [George H.] Forney, were posted at Winkler's Bluff, to prevent the destruction of the raft and the passage of Big Black River by the gunboats. The First Missouri Cavalry (dismounted) and [Ras.] Stirman's battalion, with [W. E.] Dawson's battery (four guns), held the position on Big Black known as Thompson's Hill, where the enemy had threatened an attack for some days. The remainder of the

command (the Third, Fifth, and Sixth Missouri, Guibor's and one section of [John C.] Landis' battery) was ordered to be ready to move at a moment's notice. These dispositions can be fully seen on accompanying sketch, marked A.*

About 1 o'clock in the morning the enemy advanced, drove in Green's pickets, and attacked with infantry and artillery. After a sharp contest of an hour and a half, Green repulsed him, driving him back toward Bruinsburg. At sunrise the attack was renewed, and soon the action became general along our entire front. The enemy were gradually extending their lines and threatened completely to envelop us, but the regiments immediately in our front were so repeatedly driven back that their movement was materially delayed. Arriving on the field between 7 and 8 o'clock, and finding our left very much pressed, I called upon the Sixth Mississippi to charge a battery in front of them, to which they nobly responded, and were well seconded by the Twenty-third Alabama, on their right, but not by the Arkansas troops, to their left. We succeeded, however, in forcing them back some distance, and, leaving orders with Green to hold the position for an hour, I rode back and urged forward Baldwin's brigade, then arriving, to his support. I returned just in time to see the position lost, Green having been pressed gradually back. Ordering Baldwin to take a new line on the Rodney road, I sent Green to the right to re-enforce Tracy, then severely pressed on the Bayou road. The three reserve regiments from Grand Gulf, with [Henry] Guibor's battery and Landis' section of 24-pounder howitzers, having arrived, one regiment (the Sixth Missouri, Colonel [Eugene] Erwin) was sent to the right to re-enforce Green and Tracy, Landis' section placed in Baldwin's line (who had no artillery), and the remaining regiments (the Third and Fifth Missouri) moved to the left of the line.

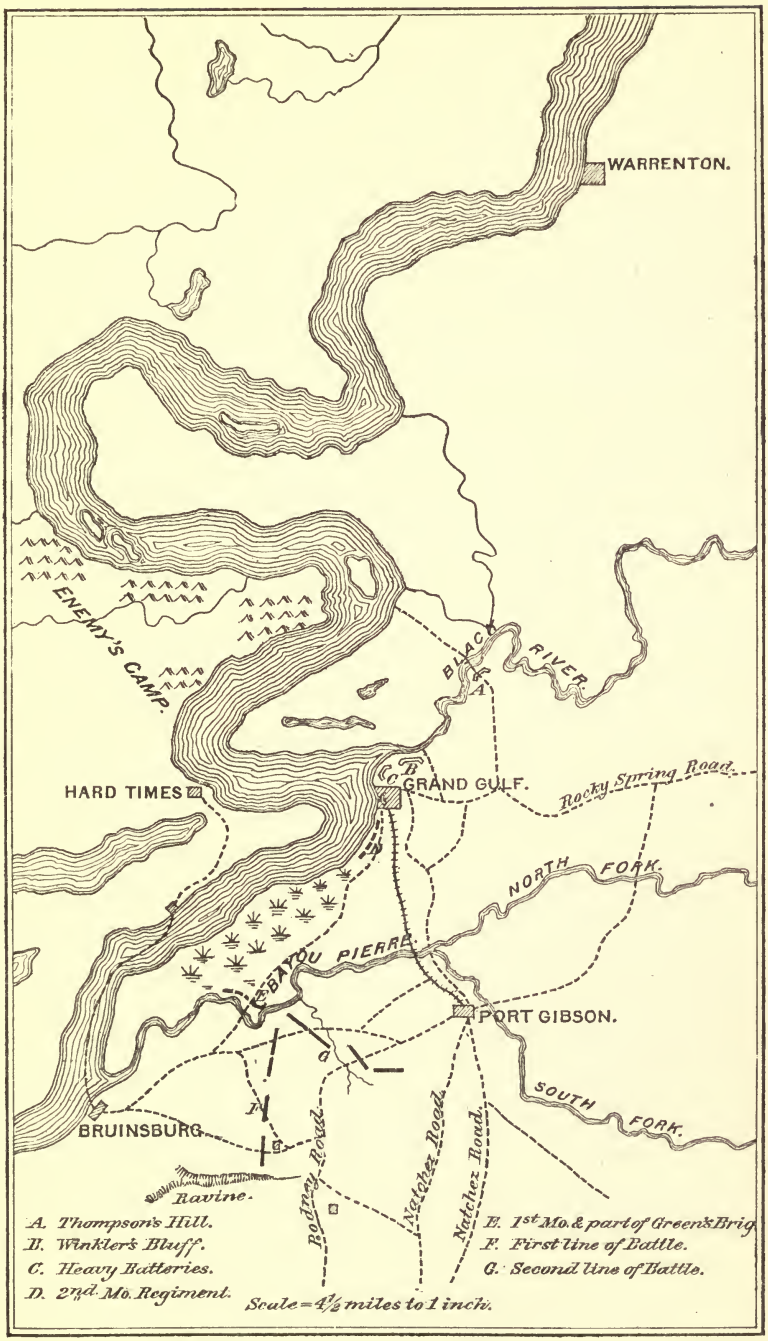
Finding the enemy's right rapidly deploying and occupying a ridge that gave them easy access to the Natchez road, I determined to check their movement, and pushing forward with the Third and Fifth Missouri—detaching them some 300 yards from Baldwin's left—we charged their extreme right division, composed of one six-gun battery and twelve regiments of infantry. The first line (four regiments) was routed; the second wavered and gradually gave way; the third held its place, and forced us, after a protracted contest, to retire. This desperate move, carried out with a determination characteristic of the regiments making it, saved us from being flanked and captured, and gave us until sunset to prepare for our retreat. About 10 a. m., finding that no real attack was to be made on Bayou Pierre or Big Black, I sent for the First Missouri Infantry and First Missouri Cavalry, dismounted. The former regiment arrived in time to cover our retreat over Bayou Pierre and assist in destroying the bridges; the latter (7 miles distant) did not come up until night.

Ammunition was very scarce, especially in Tracy's brigade, whose ordnance train had not arrived. Nearly all my field artillery had been left at the points to be guarded around Grand Gulf, and my infantry line was much extended, as may be gleaned from the reports of brigade commanders, showing that companies were sent to re-enforce assailed points where regiments were required.

My returns show the following force engaged:

Part of Green's brigade, with Sixth Mississippi and section of Hudson Battery	775
Tracy's brigade and [Joseph W.] Anderson's (Virginia) battery	1,516
Baldwin's brigade	1,614
Part of Cockrell's brigade, with Guibor's and a section of Landis' battery	1,259
Total	5,164

* See opposite page.


WARRENTON.
ENEMY'S CAMP.
BLACK RIVER.
HARD TIMES
GRAND GULF.
Rocky Spring Road.
NORTH FORK.
BAYOU PIERRE.
PORT GIBSON.
SOUTH FORK.
BRUINSBURG
Ravine.
Rodney Road.
Natchez Road.
Natchez Road.
A. Thompson's Hill.
B. Winkler's Bluff.
C. Heavy Batteries.
D. 2nd Mo. Regiment.
E. 1st Mo. & part of Green's Brig.
F. First line of Battle.
G. Second line of Battle.
Scale = 4½ miles to 1 inch.

We had thirteen pieces of light artillery. The enemy had landed 30,000 men, and according to their letter-writers nearly all were brought into action during the day. They had certainly five major-generals, including their commander, General Grant, present, showing that the above is no exaggeration of their numbers. My command held this large army in check from daylight until near sundown, often repulsing them, and three times charging and breaking their lines.

About half an hour before sundown the order to retire was given. Green was then slowly falling back on the right. Tracy's brigade moved next, followed by Cockrell, from the left, and Baldwin, who occupied the center, brought up the rear. Passing to the left of the town with the leading brigades, we crossed the bayou, and, having formed line of battle on the north side, destroyed the bridge. The enemy, pressing upon our rear, obtained possession of the road leading to the left of the town, and compelled Baldwin to cross through the town and over the forks of the bayou, destroying both bridges. Halting a few hours to rest his men, he took up his march, and, passing around, joined me the following day at Grand Gulf.

Hoping from my dispatches that Major-General [W. W.] Loring, with his whole division, would be up that night, I determined to hold the position on the Bayou Pierre, and if Loring could prevent the enemy from crossing the two forks of the bayou to the east, and thus secure my left flank, I felt confident of whipping them in front. Finding that only one small brigade of his was *en route* to join me, and that [A. W.] Reynolds' brigade, of [Carter L.] Stevenson's division, had not yet come up, I determined to abandon the position.

Major-General Loring and Brigadier-General [Lloyd] Tilghman arrived at my headquarters about 11 o'clock on the night of the 2d. I explained my position to them, and stated my determination to retreat, but told General Loring that the order had not yet been communicated to any one. He declined to assume the command of the troops, but concurred in my belief that I was compelled to abandon the post at Grand Gulf. I then ordered the evacuation, the time for each command to move being so fixed as to avoid any delay or confusion when the several commands from their respective positions should meet on the main road. After the order was issued, a dispatch from General Pemberton ordered the abandonment of the position, adding that I was to abandon my baggage, which I had determined to and did save. After the army was clear of the post, magazines destroyed, and the order of march fully arranged, General Loring assumed command, keeping me with him as a staff officer until we crossed the Big Black River, when I returned to the command of my division.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the troops who shared the perils and hardships incident to this battle. By referring to the reports of General Baldwin and Colonel [I. W.] Garrott (commanding Tracy's brigade), it will be seen that these brave men marched over 100 miles, fought for twelve hours an army five times their number, and all in the space of five days.

General Green's handsome repulse of the enemy's advance guard the night before the battle is worthy of special commendation.

In addition to the gallant charge made by the Third and Fifth Missouri (Colonels [W. R.] Gause's and [James] McCown's regiments) on the left, I would call special attention to the cool, daring, and determined conduct of Col. Eugene Erwin and the brave officers and men under him, of the Sixth Missouri. To fully understand the merit of

this officer and his regiment, I refer to his report, herewith inclosed, and fully substantiated by the reports of General Green and Colonel Garrott. The remaining regiments of this brigade, viz, the First (Colonel [A. C.] Riley) and Second (Lieutenant-Colonel [Pembroke S.] Senteny commanding), were conspicuous during the defense made at the Bayou Pierre Bridge, and as a portion of the rear guard which was so ably handled by Colonel Cockrell on our retreat from Grand Gulf to Hankinson's Ferry.

That portion of the artillery engaged, viz, [J. W.] Anderson's (Virginia) battery, one section of the Hudson, and one section of Landis' battery, commanded, respectively, by Captain [J. W.] Johnston, Lieutenant [John R.] Sweaney, and Captain Landis, conducted themselves in the most commendable manner. The officers and men of the Anderson and Hudson Batteries stood to their pieces under the most withering fire, and fought until ammunition was exhausted and so many horses killed that one [officer] (Lieutenant Sweaney) had to leave his caissons, and the other (Captain Johnston) four of his pieces, which the men strove hard to drag off the field by hand.

Thanks are due to the officers of my staff, who displayed their usual zeal and courage on such occasions.

Our loss, it will be seen by the returns heretofore forwarded, is: Killed, 68; wounded, 380; missing, 384. That of the enemy is estimated in their published accounts at about 2,000 in killed and wounded, some placing it as high as 2,500.

Among our gallant dead is numbered Brigadier-General Tracy, who fell early in the fight, but after giving signal proof of his ability as an officer and bravery as a man.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. S. BOWEN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Dept. of Mississippi and East Louisiana.

[Indorsement.]

RICHMOND, *March* 6, 1865.

These papers, to wit: Reports of Major-General Bowen, Brig. Gen. M. E. Green, Brig. Gen. W. E. Baldwin, Col. F. M. Cockrell, Col. E. Erwin, and Col. I. W. Garrott, have only been found by me within the last three days among some old court-martial papers. I had never seen them before, but was informed at Demopolis, Ala., in August, 1863, that they had been sent in to my headquarters during the siege of Vicksburg. Captain [R. R.] Hutchinson, then (formerly assistant adjutant-general to Bowen) on duty with me, had a search made for them, but ineffectually. They are now respectfully forwarded to Adjutant and Inspector General's Office for file, with my official report of operations in Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana.

J. C. PEMBERTON,
Lieutenant-General, &c.

ADDENDA.

Return of Casualties in the Confederate forces (Brig. Gen. John S. Bowen commanding) at the battle of Port Gibson, May 1, 1863.

[Compiled from brigade reports.]

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.	Total.
Bowen's division:				
First Brigade (Cockrell's)	13	97	96	206
Second Brigade (Green's)	17	83	122	222
Smith's division:				
First Brigade (Baldwin's)	12	48	27	87
Stevenson's division:				
Second Brigade (Tracy's)	18	112	142	272
Total	60	340	387	787
Total according to Bowen's report	68	380	384	832

No. 29.

Report of Col. Francis M. Cockrell, Second Missouri Infantry (Confederate), commanding First Brigade, Bowen's Division.

HDQRS. 1ST BRIG., 2D DIV., ARMY OF MISS. AND E. LA.,
Vicksburg, June 22, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by this brigade in the memorable engagements of April 29 at Grand Gulf and May 1 at Port Gibson, and the subsequent evacuation:

During the engagement with the gunboats on April 29, the Third Missouri Infantry, under Lieut. Col. F. L. Hubbell, was in the rifle-pit supporting the batteries. [William] Wade's battery and Guibor's artillerymen, manning heavy guns, were in the works at their post. All nobly did their whole duty during this fearful strife.

Our loss was: Killed, 2; wounded, 18.

On the morning of May 1, the Second Missouri Infantry, under Lieut. Col. P. S. Senteny, was posted on the river front; the First Missouri Infantry, under Col. A. C. Riley, with Wade's battery, under Lieutenant [R. C.] Walsh, was guarding a crossing on Bayou Pierre.

In obedience to orders, at about 8 a. m. the Third Missouri Infantry, under Colonel [W. R.] Gause; the Fifth Missouri Infantry, under Lieutenant-Colonel [R. S.] Bevier, and the Sixth Missouri Infantry, under Colonel [Eugene] Erwin, and Guibor's battery, under Lieutenant [William] Corkery, moved in quick time to the battle-field near Port Gibson, about 6 miles distant, and took position on our extreme left, except Colonel Erwin, who, with the Sixth Infantry, was ordered to the support of Brig. Gen. M. E. Green. The Third and Fifth Infantry were moved, by the order and under the personal direction of General Bowen, to the extreme right of the enemy, and forming in order of battle—the Fifth in front and the Third in its immediate rear—charged upon the enemy in large force (outnumbering these two regiments at least five to one), supported by a battery of six to eight guns. The enemy immediately began to change their lines so as to meet our troops, and the

Third moving to the left to unmask the Fifth, these regiments dashed upon and engaged the enemy at very close range for some forty minutes and drove back in confusion the line first engaging us. As often as one line was driven back, another of fresh troops was thrown in our front. When it became manifest that a continuance of the engagement could result in no advantage to us, these two regiments fell back and took their original position on the extreme left, having inflicted on the enemy a heavy blow which deterred him from attempting to pursue.

Captain [John C.] Landis, with a section of 24-pounder howitzers, and Guibor's battery engaged the enemy, and gallantly maintained their position until all their ammunition was expended.

Colonel Erwin, with his regiment, was hotly engaged and acted most praiseworthily, and I respectfully refer to his report, accompanying this, for the part taken by his regiment.

Retiring from the field about sundown, and arriving at the bridge across Bayou Pierre, Colonel Riley rejoined the brigade, and the First, Third, and Fifth Infantry, Guibor's battery, and a section of Captain [J. W.] Johnston's battery took position to prevent a crossing by the enemy, and during the night destroyed the bridge.

On the morning of the 2d instant, the enemy advanced and deployed a regiment of skirmishers on the opposite side of the bayou, and immediately began and kept up a brisk fire during the entire day, and in the afternoon opened on us with two batteries, and kept up a heavy fire for one hour, all without damage to us. Our skirmishers replied with good effect. At 12 m. Colonel Erwin rejoined the brigade.

Our loss in the battle of Port Gibson in the Third, Fifth, and Sixth Infantry, and Landis' and Guibor's batteries was: Killed, 13, wounded, 97, and missing, 96. For lists of killed, wounded, and missing in the different regiments and batteries, attention is respectfully called to the accompanying reports.

Among the dead we mourn the irreparable loss of Col. William Wade, of artillery, in the battle of Grand Gulf, and Capt. R. G. Stokely, Company A, Fifth Missouri Infantry, at Port Gibson, both efficient, reliable, and chivalrous officers, who fell at the post of honor and danger, in the full discharge of their whole duty, regardless of personal safety, gallantly cheering their men. For the dead we shed tears—the true test of friendship; in our hearts we cherish their memories, and by our acts we will avenge their deaths.

In the evacuation of Grand Gulf this brigade, with a section of 12-pounder guns, under Lieutenant [John M.] Langan, marched in the rear, and on arriving at the cross-roads the First, Second, and Third Infantry and the section of artillery relieved Brigadier-General Tilghman's brigade, then engaging the enemy on the road from Grindstone Ford to Hankinson's Ferry, and became engaged immediately, and successfully checked as long as desired every attempt of the enemy to advance, and then withdrew across Big Black River. Colonel Erwin and Lieutenant Walsh, with three Parrott guns, guarded the ferry during the night of the 3d instant and a part of the 4th instant, and then marched in rear of our forces to Bovina.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed on the private soldiers of this brigade for their coolness, discretion, patient endurance, and chivalrous bearing during all these memorable events—under the fire of the enemy's iron-clads at close range, in the rapid march to the field of strife and duty; the Third and Fifth Regiments in fearlessly charging a division of the Federal Army, and engaging such fearful odds so long; the Sixth Regiment in charging and driving back an immensely superior

force, and holding them at bay until almost surrounded, and then safely withdrawing, and all in the rapid and long marches to Bovina.

All the officers did their whole duty so far as I could ascertain, and all the field officers were particularly distinguished for their coolness, discretion, efficiency, and fearless bearing amid dangers.

To my acting adjutant (J. M. Flanagan), and to Rev. J. S. Howard, chaplain Second Missouri Infantry, and Capts. U. M. Young and Robert L. Maupin, who accompanied me during these engagements and marches, I am under special obligations for the fearless manner in which they so fully discharged every required duty.

I have the honor, captain, to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. M. COCKRELL,
Colonel, Comdg. First Brig. Mo. Vols., Bowen's Division.

Capt. R. R. HUTCHINSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No 30.

Report of Col. Eugene Erwin, Sixth Missouri Infantry (Confederate).

CAMP NEAR BOVINA, MISS., *May* 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by my regiment (the Sixth Missouri Infantry) in the battle near Port Gibson on May 1:

About 10 o'clock on the morning of that day, my regiment, at the time being in the ditches at Grand Gulf, was relieved by the Second Missouri Infantry, and I received an order from Colonel [F. M.] Cockrell to move as rapidly as possible with my regiment to the scene of action, 8 miles distant. This march was accomplished in two and a half hours. I immediately reported to General Bowen, and was ordered by him to report to General Green, who ordered me to take position immediately upon the left of General Tracy's brigade, which formed the right wing of our army. In order to reach this position it was necessary to advance across an open corn-field, under a heavy fire from the enemy's skirmishers. This movement was executed at double-quick time, in good order, and with but little loss. The position thus gained was about 100 yards in advance of the enemy's line, and immediately under the brow of a ridge running parallel with the line of battle. My skirmishers quickly engaged those of the enemy, and we remained in this position about an hour, when it became evident that an attempt was being made to turn the right flank of Tracy's brigade, their skirmishers being rapidly driven in, and it was apparent that unless some assistance was afforded them they would be driven from their position. I therefore felt that as prompt action was necessary, I would be justified in making an advance without orders, and immediately ordered a charge at double-quick time, and rapidly drove the enemy before me, recapturing a section of artillery that had been taken by the enemy before my arrival. I succeeded in driving them for a quarter of a mile, when, finding that there had been no advance by Tracy's brigade on my right, I ordered my men to halt and take a very strong position under the brow of a narrow ridge, which separated me from a line of the enemy's reserves. I here fought them for one hour and a half, occasionally sending messengers to Tracy's brigade, requesting them to come

up to my support. But it seems that about the time I ordered my regiment to make the charge, they received orders to withdraw, which they did rapidly and without my being apprised of it. Consequently, my messengers never reached them. I held this position until my ammunition was nearly exhausted, my line and the enemy's being within 20 yards of each other, when, finding that the enemy had flanked me on the right with a brigade of fresh troops, I reluctantly determined to withdraw from a position which had been so gallantly won and perseveringly maintained. The proximity of the enemy on my front rendered this a most hazardous undertaking. I therefore went to each captain, and notified him that I intended to give the command "fix bayonets," so that the enemy could hear it, and make a demonstration as if I were going to charge the line in front of me; but, instead of carrying out the charge, they must face their companies to the left, and withdraw quietly by the left flank, each company firing a volley as it passed a certain point, to hold them in check and prevent them from discovering the true object of the maneuver until our escape should be effected. This movement was executed with such precision and in such good order as to induce the enemy to believe that we were moving to their right, with a view of charging them and turning their right flank, and caused them to change their front to receive us, during the execution of which I caused the head of my column to debouch to the left and take advantage of a thickly timbered hollow which ran in the direction it was necessary we should go. As soon as they discovered that we were withdrawing, they advanced their lines on my right, and I again formed my men in line of battle, as if intending to give them fight. This had the effect to check them, but they having discovered the smallness of my force, determined to completely surround me, and were making disposition of their forces in order to effect it, when I ordered my men to face by the rear rank and retire at double-quick, which they did in good order, under fire from the enemy's whole line, for a distance of 300 yards, across an open corn-field. I again halted my men, formed them, and marched off in the direction of the bridge over Bayou Pierre, on the road from Port Gibson to Grand Gulf, which point I reached a little after dark.

My regiment was the last to leave the field, and had Tracy's brigade joined me in the charge, instead of withdrawing at that time, we would have completely routed their left wing.

The section of artillery captured in the early part of the charge had to be abandoned, as the horses had all been killed but two.

I went into the fight with 400 men, and my loss in killed, wounded, and missing was 82, as will be seen by accompanying report, marked A.* Thus it will be seen with one regiment I charged the whole left wing of the Federal army, drove them for a distance of a quarter of a mile, fought them and held my position for one hour and a half without support, and withdrew in good order under fire from their whole line, with a loss of only 82 men.

My officers and men, without exception, did their duty nobly, and where all are heroes it would be unjust to make distinction.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EUGENE ERWIN,
Colonel, Commanding Sixth Missouri.

Capt. J. M. FLANAGAN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Brigade.

* Not found.

No. 31.

Report of Brig. Gen. Martin E. Green, C. S. Army, commanding Second Brigade, Bowen's Division.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,
Big Black, May 11, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit the following report of the part taken by the troops under my command in the battle at Union Church, near Port Gibson, on May 1:

In the evening of April 29, I received an order from Brigadier-General Bowen, commanding, to send a force of 500 men beyond Port Gibson, to take position and picket the different roads leading south. I accordingly sent, under command of Colonel [J. E.] Cravens, that part of his regiment (Twenty-first Arkansas) not on picket, the Fifteenth Arkansas, and Twelfth Battalion Arkansas Infantry (sharpshooters), making in the aggregate a little over 400.

About 1 a. m. on the 30th ultimo, I received an order from the brigadier-general commanding to proceed at once to Port Gibson and take command of the forces; also stating that the Sixth Mississippi Infantry and Hudson Battery of light artillery would report to me at that place. I accordingly set out for Port Gibson at once, accompanied by my staff, the balance of my brigade being on picket. Upon reaching Port Gibson, about 3 a. m., I found the command was posted on the Natchez road, about 1½ miles from town. I sent for it and had it marched out on the Rodney road, and took position at the junction of the Rodney and Bruinsburg roads, where I was joined by the Sixth Mississippi and Hudson Battery. After picketing forward on the different roads, I went forward to reconnoiter the country and choose location for the battle. I went forward several miles examining the different locations, and was best pleased with the one near Union Church, where the battle was finally fought; but finding the enemy was advancing on both roads, I concluded not to change my position at the junction of the roads until I could get re-enforcements. In the evening General Bowen came up and informed me that Brigadier-General Tracy, with his brigade, would soon be up. A forward movement was at once decided upon. General Bowen went forward with me and decided to take the position previously selected by myself. General Bowen ordered that I should place two or three companies on the Bruinsburg road and the main force on the Rodney road; but after General Bowen left me, a scout that I had sent out returned and informed me that the enemy were advancing in force on both roads. This information caused me to change the disposition of the troops, and instead of two or three companies I sent General Tracy's entire brigade on the Bruinsburg road, I taking position on the Rodney road near Union Church, throwing pickets to the front about a mile, and forming my line on the crest of a hill running diagonally across the road, throwing out skirmishers, and ordering the men to sleep on their arms and be ready for action at a moment's warning.

About 12.30 o'clock the pickets were driven in by the enemy. Soon the skirmishers of the enemy and mine became engaged, and in a few moments a six-gun battery of the enemy opened upon us, to which the Hudson Battery replied, the enemy still continuing to advance slowly. At times the musketry was very warm, extending the whole length of our line. The Hudson Battery, though in a very warm place, succeeded in driving the enemy's battery from its position. This, however, was soon replaced by another, which opened upon us with great fury. Our

battery replied with signal success, though the enemy's shells and balls fell thick around them, wounding many; yet they stood by their guns and kept up a regular fire. After three hours' hard fighting, the enemy ceased firing and withdrew a short distance, we still holding our position.

At daylight the enemy could be seen reconnoitering in force in every direction, but out of gun-shot range. Between 6 and 7 o'clock the enemy's skirmishers again moved forward and engaged mine. This soon brought on a general engagement by both artillery and infantry. The enemy were pressing heavily upon me, and the ammunition of the Hudson Battery having been expended, I sent to General Tracy for re-enforcements. He sent me the Twenty-third Alabama Infantry and a section of Anderson's battery (12-pounders). This was about 8.30 o'clock in the morning. The re-enforcements came up under a heavy fire, and took position and fought bravely. We held this position against a force of at least eight to our one, and double our number of pieces of artillery. The Hudson Battery having procured some ammunition, Lieutenant [John R.] Sweaney with two pieces returned to the field and took his old position. We were compelled to quit this position about 11 o'clock, the enemy having flanked us with a heavy force on the left. We fell back in order, with but little loss, except the section of Anderson's battery. These men had stood manfully to their guns until at least half their number were either killed or wounded, and were compelled to leave their guns for want of teams to bring them off, all their horses except two being killed. As I fell back, I met General Baldwin's brigade forming on a hill some 1½ miles back. I marched to the rear of General Baldwin's brigade, and there received orders to take my command and Colonel [Eugene] Erwin's regiment (Sixth Missouri Infantry) to the right wing and re-enforce General Tracy's brigade, which I did as speedily as the wearied condition of my men would admit. On arriving, I found Colonel [I. W.] Garrott, in command of Tracy's brigade, fighting against greatly superior numbers, and entirely cut off from the balance of the command, and liable to be outflanked at any moment. I threw Colonel Erwin's regiment on the left of Tracy's brigade, relieving one of Colonel Garrott's regiments, which was thrown to the support of his right, and formed my brigade on the left of Colonel Erwin. I then ordered them to press the enemy, knowing that unless we could drive him back we must fall back to prevent being cut off, as we were at least 1½ miles in advance of the other portion of the army. Colonel Erwin succeeded in driving the enemy in front of him, yet the other portion of the line, although the troops fought hard, could not advance the lines.

I received an order from General Bowen to hold my position until near sunset, and by that time, if I could not advance, to retire. Accordingly, after we had fought for some hours in this position, and seeing my right was about being outflanked, and were falling back, I ordered them to face by the left flank and retire from the field, there being a ravine through which we could escape the fire of the enemy. This order, by mistake, was communicated to the right before the left, when it should have been delivered to the left first. I at the same time ordered a section of [J. W.] Anderson's battery to open warmly upon the enemy, in order to divert his attention from our movements. This order was obeyed to the letter, and, had it not been for the miscarrying of the order to the infantry, all would have gotten off the field before the enemy could have discovered the move. Colonel Erwin was, however, warmly engaged at the time, and driving the enemy before him, and, not receiving the order in time, came near being surrounded by the enemy. Colonel Er-

win, in his advance, recaptured two pieces of artillery that had been captured by the enemy, but the horses having been nearly all killed, and he having to fall back at double-quick, was compelled to leave them on the field.

This regiment fought bravely, and Colonel Erwin showed great coolness of judgment and quick perception in getting out of this difficulty. This was the last regiment to leave the field.

My force when attacked by the enemy did not exceed 800, and, after being re-enforced by the Twenty-third Alabama, did not exceed 1,100, and with this force I maintained my position against a force of the enemy (as subsequent [events] have proven) of at least 7,000 from 12.30 o'clock until about 10.30. My men becoming exhausted, and being outflanked at both flanks, were compelled to fall back. In this engagement my command was made up of troops from Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama, and each seemed to vie with the other as to who should carry off the palm. Without any distinction, I have simply to say, all fought well, and did their duty. All stood at their posts until ordered to leave.

Having received no reports from the Sixth Mississippi, Twenty-third Alabama, or either of the batteries, I am unable to state their losses, but from the length of time they were under a heavy fire they must be very great. The most of these troops were new to me, yet they fought most gallantly and did honor to the States they represent, and will do to rely upon in any emergency.

The Alabama regiment and Sixth Mississippi made a gallant charge in front of the enemy's battery under a heavy fire, General Bowen leading the Alabama regiment.

Colonel [Robert] Lowry, of the Sixth Mississippi, deserves the highest commendation for his coolness and promptness in executing every order.

The Hudson and Anderson batteries did all that the most sanguine could expect.

The Arkansas troops were exposed to the heaviest charges made by the enemy, yet they stood like heroes at their posts, repulsing at least a dozen heavy charges, each charge having been made (as I learn) by fresh troops.

Our loss, without including that of the batteries, Sixth Mississippi, or Twenty-third Alabama, is 222, as follows:

Command.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
6th Missouri	4	32	46
21st Arkansas	4	11	22
12th Battalion Sharpshooters	1	3	17
15th Arkansas Infantry	8	37	37
Total	17	83	122

Doubtless many or nearly all of those reported missing are killed, yet we have no means of ascertaining what has been their fate.

Although all the troops under my command stood to their posts and fought with a desperation unequaled, and particular mention of any might be thought an invidious discrimination, yet I feel it my duty to mention Capt. Griff. Bayne, commander of the Twelfth Battalion Sharpshooters, as having acted pre-eminently gallant, and after skirmishing with the enemy and holding him in check from 12.30 o'clock until about,

8 p. m., fell, severely, if not mortally, wounded. I recommend him to the favorable consideration of the Department.

I cannot refrain from mentioning the conduct of the Sixth Missouri Infantry. It has been my fortune to be with this regiment in every engagement in which it has participated since we crossed the Mississippi River, and on each occasion have I been struck by their gallant conduct, and in this engagement, though I expected much of them, they more than came up to my expectations. Colonel Erwin was notified to march at 10 a. m., and was on the field (8 miles distant) by 1 p. m. They went into the fight with about 400 men; were so nearly surrounded as to have to cut their way out, and lost only 82 men.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. E. GREEN,
Brigadier-General, Second Brigade, Second Division.

Capt. R. R. HUTCHINSON,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Bowen's Division, Army of the Mississippi.

No. 32.

Report of Brig. Gen. William E. Baldwin, C. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Smith's Division.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST BRIGADE, SMITH'S DIVISION,
Dr. Naylor's, Nine Miles Southeast of Vicksburg, May 9, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor respectfully to report the movements of my command during the five days succeeding the night of the 29th ultimo, and also the part taken by this brigade in the action near Port Gibson on the 1st instant.

In compliance with orders from division headquarters, my command, consisting of the Seventeenth Louisiana, Colonel [Robert] Richardson; Thirty-first Louisiana, Lieutenant-Colonel [S. H.] Griffin; Fourth Mississippi Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel [T. N.] Adaire; Forty-sixth Mississippi Infantry, Colonel [C. W.] Sears, marched through Vicksburg, *en route* for Hankinson's Ferry, on the Big Black, on Wednesday, the 29th ultimo, at 9 p. m. We crossed the Big Black next day between the hours of 12 m. and 2 p. m., and there awaited orders. These were received soon after sunset from Brigadier-General Bowen, commanding at Grand Gulf, who directed me to proceed immediately to Port Gibson, and there take position on the Rodney road. I marched until midnight, and then halted the command until morning at the suspension bridge over the north fork of Bayou Pierre.

Starting soon after daylight the next morning (Friday, the 1st instant), we had marched but 4 or 5 miles when the sound of firing was heard in advance. The pace was accelerated, and soon couriers arrived in quick succession, announcing that our troops beyond Port Gibson were engaged with the enemy, and urging our speedy arrival. The brigade passed through the town at a rapid pace, and thence marched in double-quick about 2 miles southwest, on the Rodney road, when we found our troops falling back from all points, pressed by greatly superior numbers. The regiments were at once assigned positions to check the advance of the enemy. The Seventeenth Louisiana was directed to occupy a wood on the left of the main road, which was much broken by ravines, and formed a salient angle with our general line. The Thirty-first Loui-

siana was, by direction of General Bowen, posted on the extreme right of my position, on a ridge separated from the remainder of the command by a deep wooded hollow. This regiment was not actively engaged during the day, but was within reach of the enemy's artillery. It maintained its position until the command was drawn off. The Fourth Mississippi was placed on the left of the center, its right forming part of the defense of the triangular wood, separated from the Seventeenth Louisiana by a deep ravine, the left extending along a skirt of woods which bounded on the side next to us an open field, forming a re-entering angle, the whole front of the regiment covered by skirmishers. The Forty-sixth Mississippi was posted on a hill 600 or 800 yards in rear of the front, on the left of the main road, as a reserve, and to support a battery placed there. The Seventeenth Louisiana and Fourth Mississippi were soon actively engaged with the enemy's skirmishers; the former the most warmly, as it occupied the key to our position. Two pieces of artillery placed upon the ridge where the Forty-sixth Mississippi was stationed, although nearly out of ammunition, opened upon the enemy's advance in front of the Fourth Mississippi, and checked their progress. The number of pieces at this point was afterward increased to six, but their fire, though accurate and effective, was necessarily slow and at long intervals, from scarcity of ammunition. The fire was kept up with but little intermission along our front until between 3 and 4 p. m., when, no progress having been made by the enemy, General Bowen directed me to make an effort to advance and try their strength.

I therefore placed the Forty-sixth Mississippi in an open field on a hillside, to the right of the road and of the Seventeenth Louisiana, covered by a company of skirmishers. The ground was too much intersected by hollows, woods, and deep ravines to admit of simultaneous action; but I started the Fourth Mississippi across the open field in front of its left, covered by three companies of skirmishers, with instructions to dash across the space to the woods beyond, and seize and hold the position. The Seventeenth Louisiana was directed to debouch from the wood in the same manner, but their position was so much cut up by ravines and other irregularities of ground that no line of battle could be formed, and companies were compelled to act independently. The Forty-sixth Mississippi was directed to rush across the field and up the slight acclivity on which they were placed, and possess themselves of the woods in front. Before the dispositions could be entirely completed, the enemy opened a sweeping fire of grape and shrapnel, completely enfilading the road and covering all approach from my center and right. The Fourth Mississippi had commenced the movement as directed, and started across the field under a heavy fire of musketry, but before the other regiments could be placed in motion it was compelled to retake its position, having found, as reported, two brigades of infantry opposed to its left. It was then evident to me that an attempt to move forward would result in the destruction of the entire command without accomplishing the object. I therefore reported the condition of affairs to General Bowen, who directed me to relinquish the attempt. The Forty-sixth Mississippi was then returned to its former position, but afterward, from representation from Colonel Richardson that his right was menaced, four companies of this regiment were sent forward to the right of the road and of his position, where they remained until the command was about to be drawn off. The enemy opened at this time a concentrated fire upon our battery posted on the hill. Their skirmishers advanced against the Fourth Mississippi. Our batteries checked their advance, but in so doing killed and wounded several of our own men,

which compelled the Fourth Mississippi to take a position a little in rear of their former one, to avoid the fire of our guns. Everything then remained in the center as first placed in the morning, when I was directed by General Bowen first to fall back to a commanding ridge about half a mile to our rear, and before this movement was completed to retire across the Bayou Pierre, designating the lower bridge across the main stream, about 3 miles below the town, as the place of crossing, and a road which led directly from the right of the new position I was taking as the route.

In falling back, the Thirty-first Louisiana, on my right, was nearly intercepted. The troops of our right as well as left wing having been drawn off, the enemy occupied the road I was designated to take, and were at least 1 mile nearer the bridge than my command. The regiments were drawn off in good order in successive *échelons*, alternately facing the advancing enemy, the artillery, being out of ammunition (one section having only three rounds left), retiring first.

At 9 p. m. I passed through the town of Port Gibson; crossed the south fork of Bayou Pierre, and followed the route I had come in the morning. I was induced to this departure from the route suggested by a conviction that the other course would involve the capture of my command. The enemy pressed closely upon our rear until near the town, when they allowed us to continue our march undisturbed. At midnight I crossed the north fork, rested two hours, and believing it to be the policy of the enemy to pursue us rapidly, burned the bridge; then continued the route, turning to the left after marching 3 miles, and taking the shortest road to the position occupied by General Bowen, on the right bank of Bayou Pierre, opposite the railroad and suspension bridges, which had been destroyed.

I arrived at this point and formed a junction at 9 a. m., Saturday, having marched 21 miles since we left the battle-field. At this point we remained all that day in position and until 2 o'clock the following morning, when a retreat was ordered to the Big Black.

The command reached Vicksburg at 5 o'clock Monday evening, having in less than five days marched over 100 miles, besides being engaged with the enemy more than ten successive hours. The men marched in better order and with less straggling than I ever before observed in any troops; and while their indomitable steadiness and courage on the battle-field is worthy of all commendation, their patient and cheerful endurance of fatigue and an unusual march bespeaks the highest quality of soldiers.

It would be a most agreeable duty to mention individual instances of courage and gallantry were it not that when all did so well it is difficult to distinguish without doing injustice to many. To the reports of regimental commanders I respectfully refer for the names of their officers whose conduct was most particularly noticed. I cordially indorse their favorable mention.

As regiments, the Seventeenth Louisiana, Colonel Richardson, and the Fourth Mississippi, Lieutenant-Colonel Adaire, were so posted as to bear the severest part of the conflict, especially the Seventeenth Louisiana, which was constantly and fiercely engaged nearly the whole of the time we were in position. The regiments both deserve the highest praise. The other regiments (Thirty-first Louisiana and Forty-sixth Mississippi) also performed their parts well, and to my entire satisfaction, but, not being in a position to engage the enemy directly, were not tried in the same ordeal.

Colonel Richardson, Seventeenth Louisiana, deserves especial notice

for his gallantry, coolness, and excellent judgment in the management of his command in the most critical position during the entire day. Lieutenant-Colonel Adaire, commanding Fourth Mississippi, is also entitled to high commendation.

The members of my staff also merit my thanks for their promptness and gallantry; but I must especially mention Capt. S. D. Harris, assistant inspector-general; Lieut. P. Hamilton, aide-de-camp, and Capt. A. B. Watts, volunteer aide, who were frequently exposed to the hottest fire, and discharged their duties with the coolness which belongs to veterans of a hundred battles. The latter (Captain Watts) had 3 horses shot under him, and was himself severely wounded in the arm. He merits more than my own praise.

The losses in the brigade were as follows: Killed, 12; wounded, 48; missing, 27. Total loss, 87 men.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. BALDWIN,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. R. R. HUTCHINSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, General Bowen's division.

No. 33.

Report of Col. Isham W. Garrott, Twentieth Alabama Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, Stevenson's Division.

CAMP NEAR WARRENTON, *May* —, 1863.

SIR: By order of Brigadier-General Barton, commanding Stevenson's division, nine companies each of the Twentieth, Twenty-third, Thirtieth, and Thirty-first Regiments Alabama Volunteers left camp, near Warrenton, about 7 p. m. on the evening of April 29; crossed the Big Black at Hankinson's Ferry that night, and continued the march next day in the direction of Grand Gulf. When we arrived within 4 miles of the latter place, we were directed to move toward Port Gibson; crossed Bayou Pierre on the suspension bridge between Port Gibson and Grand Gulf, and halted a little beyond, where the men, who had been without food all day, obtained raw rations and immediately proceeded to cook them. Before the cooking was done, however, the order to march was given, and the troops proceeded down the bayou to a point 5 or 6 miles in front of Port Gibson, where we were formed in line of battle on the night of the 30th, the brigade having marched 40 miles in twenty-seven hours.

The troops slept on their arms until aroused by the fire of artillery on our left about 2 o'clock next morning, when they promptly fell into line. An officer sent by General Green stated to General Tracy that General Green had sent him to ask at least one regiment and one section of Captain [J. W.] Johnston's battery to re-enforce him on the left, strenuously urging that if the left was not sustained the right would be cut off from all chance of retreat, and stating to General Tracy that it was General Green's opinion that he could not sustain his position on the left fifteen minutes unless re-enforced. General Tracy reluctantly ordered the nine companies of the Twenty-third Alabama (then on the field) and two of the four guns of Captain Johnston's battery to his relief. This was about sunrise, and before the infantry had become en-

gaged. The balance of the brigade then on the ground—consisting of nine companies each of the Twentieth, Thirtieth, and Thirty-first Alabama Regiments—were then placed in the position for battle pointed out by General Green, who, as understood, was sent by General Bowen to discharge this duty. The battery was placed on the ridge about the center of our line and near some negro houses. The Thirtieth Alabama was posted on either side of the battery. The left wing of the Twentieth Regiment formed line on their right, stretching out obliquely to the front to a skirt of woods on the east side of the ravine, which is west of the negro houses. Two of the four remaining companies of the Twentieth Regiment were posted at very long intervals, and the other two were deployed as skirmishers to protect our right flank, the distance between the right flank of our little force and Bayou Pierre, which was intended to be protected by these four companies, being not less than 800 yards. The nine companies of the Thirty-first Alabama Regiment were placed in line on Colonel [Charles M.] Shelley's left, in a gorge or ravine grown up with reeds, bushes, and some few small trees. The distance between the left flank of this last regiment and the nearest troops on its left was at least 1 mile.

The battle was commenced on the right a little before 7 o'clock in the morning, the enemy first attacking the center of our brigade with artillery and small-arms. The attack was coolly and promptly met by the section of Captain Johnston's battery above mentioned and the Thirtieth Alabama Regiment. The contest here soon became warm and bloody. The battery was in range of the enemy's sharpshooters, and in a short time a number of the officers, men, and horses had been killed or wounded.

A little before 8 o'clock our brave and gallant commander, General Tracy, fell near the front line, pierced through the breast, and instantly died without uttering a word. The command of the brigade then devolved upon the undersigned, and the fight was continued by our troops with unabated ardor. I knew nothing of the plan of battle except what I had casually learned that morning from General Tracy, the substance of which is hereinbefore stated. The enemy was in our front, and I knew of no order to retire. A messenger was immediately sent to the commanding general for instructions, who, on account of the distance to be traveled, did not return until about 11 o'clock, when he brought the order that our position was to be held at all hazards.

In the mean time the fire of the enemy had become much heavier, and the Thirty-first Alabama and the left wing of the Twentieth had become engaged. Skirmishing had also been for some time kept up with the detached companies on the right. Two other pieces of Captain Johnston's battery had arrived on the field, and had been ordered to relieve the two which had been placed in position in the morning. Two of the four pieces had by this time been disabled. Lieutenant [Philip] Peters and several men had been killed and others had been wounded, and a considerable number of the horses were disabled. Captain Johnston had exhibited distinguished gallantry, and his command had bravely stood by their guns; but by 10 o'clock the enemy's fire of artillery and sharpshooters had become so deadly that it seemed impossible for them to remain longer on the field without being sacrificed, and I ordered them to retire, which they did with the only two pieces capable of being carried from the field. The enemy had massed heavy forces in front of our center and of the left wing of the Twentieth Regiment, and they had for some time been receiving a deadly fire. The enemy had even attempted more than once to charge this position in heavy force, but as

soon as they emerged from their cover they were repulsed by a deliberate and well-aimed fire.

The Forty-sixth Alabama Regiment, belonging to this brigade, after a most exhausting march during the afternoon of the preceding day and night, had arrived on the field by 8 o'clock with about 160 effective men, and formed on the left of the Thirty-first Alabama Regiment.

About 11 o'clock heavy columns of the enemy could be distinctly seen, and it appeared evident that if they could be brought up to make a charge that our slender force would be overwhelmed by vastly superior numbers. The ammunition of the Thirtieth Regiment was now becoming exhausted, and that of the left wing of the Twentieth was growing short. Adjutant [John S.] Smith, of the Twentieth Regiment, was then dispatched to Brigadier-General Bowen to advise him of our situation, and to ask for instructions and re-enforcements, and that ammunition might be sent us. The general being on a distant part of the field, the adjutant did not return until about 2 o'clock, when he brought the order that our position must be held at all hazards and that re-enforcements would be sent. The enemy had attempted to make, up to this time, several charges on our center, defended by the Thirtieth and left wing of the Twentieth Alabama Regiments, and had been each time heroically repulsed. The Thirtieth Regiment, commanded by the cool, brave, and gallant Colonel Shelley, and the five left companies of the Twentieth Regiment, under the immediate command of the fearless and chivalrous Lieutenant-Colonel [E. W.] Pettus, had obstinately resisted every effort of the enemy to dislodge them.

Finding that the enemy were advancing in the direction of the skirt of woods to our right and front, Captain [J. McKee] Gould and Lieutenant [J. W.] Parish, of the Twentieth Alabama Regiment, with their companies, had been sent forward to prevent their obtaining possession of this wood, and well and bravely did Captain Gould and the said companies discharge this duty. Learning after 12 o'clock that these two companies were severely pressed, Captain [R. H.] Pratt, of the Twentieth Alabama, with his company, was sent to their support, and they promptly and cheerfully advanced to the assistance of their comrades. The enemy's fire on the center not being at all diminished, it became necessary to order one company from the right, which was not so heavily engaged, to sustain it, and Captain [B. D.] Massingale, with his company, was ordered on this duty, and advanced in good order under the enemy's fire, and took the position previously occupied by Captain Pratt's company. The four companies on the right, under the immediate command of Captain [J. N.] Dedman, after the death of General Tracy, had resisted all attempts of the enemy to flank us on the right, and after the withdrawal of Captain Massingale's company still maintained their ground, but a little after 3 o'clock large bodies of the enemy could be distinctly seen advancing on our slender forces on the right, our center being still heavily pressed.

In the mean time the Sixth Missouri Regiment had formed near the left of our brigade, and the Forty-sixth Alabama not yet being engaged, no alternative was left but to be overwhelmed by the masses of the enemy or re-enforce the center and right with that regiment. Five companies were therefore ordered to re-enforce the extreme right, and the other five the center. Colonel [M. L.] Woods being placed in command on the right, this regiment, thus divided, promptly and eagerly advanced to their positions under a galling fire from the enemy. The enemy having now reached the woods near the line on the right, Colonel Woods, with half his regiment, was posted at the road a little beyond the gap

near the bayou, where embankments furnished good defense against small-arms, and the three companies of the Twentieth Regiment on the right were directed to form there with him, which they promptly did, having retired in good order from their respective former positions, about 200 yards in front of this place. The enemy advanced in great force against this latter position, but Colonel Woods and his command bravely met their attack, and held them at bay until ordered to retreat, as hereafter stated. The Thirty-first Alabama Regiment had well sustained their position on the left of Colonel Shelley, and resisted every effort of the enemy to advance in their front.

About 12 o'clock, Colonel [D. R.] Hundley, having ventured too far in front of his line in search of a better position nearer to the enemy, was severely wounded, and the command devolved on Lieutenant-Colonel [T. M.] Arrington, a copy of whose report is herewith submitted.*

In order that no means should be spared to resist the advance of the enemy, I sent Adjutant Smith to the rear, to bring up the two pieces of artillery belonging to Captain Johnston's battery, which had been ordered to retire, as before stated. Lieutenant Peters had bravely fallen while at his post in the desperate fight in the morning, and Captain Johnston, who had with undaunted courage and true heroism skillfully managed his artillery, had been borne from the field completely exhausted. Adjutant Smith found Sergeant [Francis G.] Obenchain in command of the two remaining pieces, delivered to him the order, and caused them to be planted on a hill some 600 yards in our rear, and directed that they should be ready for any emergency. Sergeant Obenchain, who had in the forenoon exhibited uniform coolness and unflinching nerve, promptly brought forward what was left of his command and took position as directed.

Learning from Colonel Shelley and Lieutenant-Colonel Pettus that the enemy were about occupying a high hill to the right of our center, from which our men had been driven by an overwhelming force, they were ordered to retire with their commands and take a new and strong position behind the crest of the ridge on which our line of battle had been formed early in the morning so soon as their position became untenable, on account of an enfilade fire of small-arms or artillery. Before this last order was executed, I met Brigadier-General Green on the field, explained to him our position, and the orders under which the battle was then raging. He declined to make any change, and stated that he expected to receive an order from General Bowen in a short time, and would send it to me. He soon afterward (it being about 5 o'clock) did send an order to retreat by the left flank, which was immediately executed as rapidly as possible.

By this time great numbers of the enemy had advanced into the woods in our front and occupied the high hill before referred to, so that the open ridge over which the Thirtieth and Twentieth Regiments were compelled to pass in falling back was very much exposed to a concentrated fire. While retreating across this ridge, the brave and chivalrous Major [A. S.] Pickering, of the Twentieth Regiment Alabama Volunteers, fell, it is believed mortally wounded, while nobly discharging his duty in sustaining his command. Sergeant Earle, color-bearer, here also fell while fearlessly carrying the colors from the field.

Lieutenant-Colonel Pettus, in a most daring attempt to bring off Captain Pratt and a portion of his company from their front position, which they yielded with great reluctance, was, with that brave captain and his equally brave men, cut off and captured by the enemy.

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*Not found.

Sergeant Obenchain and his intrepid comrades, by a cool and skillful fire, greatly assisted in protecting the retreat. The Twentieth, Thirtieth, Thirty-first, and Forty-sixth Regiments fell back into the road in the rear. Sergeant Obenchain soon brought his pieces into the column, the Thirty-first Alabama Regiment formed in the rear to cover the retreat, and the retreat was then conducted in good order some 4 miles over Bayou Pierre and to the ridge on the north side, where the troops went into camp.

The Sixth Missouri Regiment did not report for orders, but it would be unjust to them not to state that they courageously met the vast odds of the foe, and rendered most essential service in checking any advance he may otherwise have been disposed to make.

Thus for about eleven hours had this most unequal contest continued. Column after column of the enemy had been seen to advance against our line. Several times charges were ordered and attempted, but as soon as the enemy emerged from their cover a deliberate and deadly fire invariably drove them back. From what was seen on that day by officers of the command who occupied good positions for the purpose, and from what Colonel Pettus (who after his capture was carried across the battle-field in the afternoon of the same day) saw and learned, there is no doubt that from 12,000 to 15,000 men were engaged during the day with the part of our brigade which took part in this action, while our own number did not exceed 1,400.

Our loss was 18 killed, 112 wounded, and 142 missing, while the loss of the enemy in killed alone was much greater. Colonel Pettus, who passed over the most hotly contested part of the field, is of opinion that the enemy's loss in killed was nearly equal to half of our own number engaged in the battle.

In any attempt which might be made to particularize individual merit injustice may be done. All—officers and men—did their whole duty. It seemed to be impossible for men to behave better; but certain positions gave some better opportunities for distinction than others. This was particularly the case with the Thirtieth Alabama Regiment and the companies of the Twentieth Alabama immediately on their right, who, under the cool, courageous, and skillful leadership of their commanders, fought through the day in a hot sun with the most obstinate and unflinching bravery.

To Sergeant-Major [W. K.] McConnell, of the Thirtieth Regiment, my thanks are due for the prompt and intelligent manner in which he aided me, in carrying reports and messages to, and bringing orders and answers from, the general commanding. Sergeant Powers, of Company I, Twentieth Regiment, rendered most essential service in carrying orders to various parts of the field and bringing back information, though exposed to a hot fire from the enemy. To Adjutant Smith I am also indebted for efficient service in carrying dispatches, and for the prompt manner in which he caused the artillery under Sergeant Obenchain to be placed in position, as before stated. For further information of instances of individual merit, I beg leave to refer to accompanying reports.*

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I. W. GARROTT,

Col. Twentieth Regt. Ala. Vols., Comdg. Second Brig. on 1st instant.

Capt. [R. R.] HUTCHINSON, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[P. S.].—There was no pursuit by the enemy.

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* Not found.

ADDENDA.

Ordnance and Stores lost by Stevenson's Division at Port Gibson, May 1.

Bronze 6-pounder gun	1
Bronze 12-pounder howitzers	2
Napoleon	1
Caissons	5
Sets lead harness	18
Sets wheel harness	9
Small-arms	440
Accouterments	440

MAY 2, 1863.—Skirmish on the South Fork of Bayou Pierre, Miss.

*Report of Col. George B. Boomer, Third Brigade, Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, including operations April 25–May 4.**

HDQRS. 3D BRIGADE, 7TH DIVISION, 17TH ARMY CORPS,
Camp on Big Black River, Miss., May 4, 1863.

GENERAL: In obedience to orders received this date from army headquarters, I submit the following report:

Under orders from Major-General McPherson, I left camp at Milliken's Bend with my command, consisting of four regiments and two batteries, at 6 a. m., April 25.

I joined my division near Smith's plantation the evening of the 26th; remained in camp the following day, in obedience to orders, and arrived at Hard Times Landing on the evening of the 30th.

On the following day, crossed the Mississippi River with the division; landed at Bruinsburg; moved out on the road to Port Gibson, and at night took up position in line, covering the road leading to Grand Gulf by Mr. Smith's plantation.

The following day moved at 3 a. m. in advance of the division; arrived at Port Gibson at 11 a. m., and halted till 5 p. m., waiting the construction of a bridge over the south fork of Bayou Pierre, and moved in advance of the army 9 miles, to the bridge over the north fork of the same stream. This structure we found fired by the enemy, and the position apparently just abandoned. The advance guard extinguished the fire, and I threw a picket across the stream and halted for the night, my command having been nineteen hours on the road.

The following day, pursuant to your order, I moved forward at 7 a. m. in rear of the division, and was only brought forward at 3 p. m., when I deployed the Fifth and Tenth Iowa Infantry, of my command, on the right of the skirmishers of the First Brigade, with a view of flanking the enemy's battery and line, then checking our advance. I had advanced my line of skirmishers about 400 yards, when I received notice from you that the enemy had retired from his position. I then resumed my position in the line, and moved forward to this encampment.

I have moved 110 miles with my brigade in nine days, over very bad roads a portion of the distance, crossed the Mississippi River, and advanced three days of the time in the presence of the enemy. I started with five teams to a regiment; have crossed this transportation over the Mississippi River, brought forward with it 140 rounds of ammunition

* See also battle of Port Gibson, reports of Logan and J. D. Stevenson.

per man, and kept my command supplied with rations, and have now three days' on hand.

I have this day, by your instruction, ordered Col. H. Putnam, with five companies of the Ninety-third Illinois Infantry, and Maj. C. F. Brown, with the Twenty-sixth Missouri Regiment, to reconnoiter the river 4 miles above and below this point, and herewith submit their reports.*

I am, very respectfully,

GEORGE B. BOOMER,
Colonel Twenty-sixth Missouri Infantry, Commanding Brigade.

Brig. Gen. M. M. CROCKER,
Commanding Seventh Division.

MAY 4, 1863.—Engagement at Fort De Russy, Red River, Louisiana.†

Reports of Capt. John Kelso, commanding Confederate gunboats.

FLAG-SHIP GRAND DUKE,
May 4, 1863.

MAJOR: A ship of war mounting four guns on a side came up and opened fire on us this morning. We have some wounded, and I think on the Cotton some killed. The fire lasted about sixty minutes. We had to temporarily abandon the Cotton. We will return for her, as the enemy dropped down, as I thought, to secure a flank fire on us; but it is likely he (the enemy) is badly damaged.

I have the honor to remain, major, respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KELSO,
Captain, Commanding Gunboat Fleet.

Maj. E. SURGET,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

P. S.—The enemy, three in number—the picket guard reported before we left—had all gone down the river at the highest rate of speed. A boat answering the description of the Calhoun laid behind the woods and assisted in the attack. She put two or three shells through us. We could not direct our attention to her, as it could not be exactly discovered where she was stationed.

The enemy set us on fire repeatedly, but it was extinguished by the energy of the steamboat men. I will shortly, major, make a full report.

—

FLAG-SHIP GRAND DUKE,
May 13, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this fleet since the 1st instant. Continuous fever, confining me to bed during a portion of the time and incapacitating me for work of any sort, has delayed the submission of this report till now.

In obedience to Special Orders, No. 106, and emanating from head-

* Not found.

† For reports of Rear-Admiral D. G. Farragut and Lieut. Commander John E. Hart, U. S. Navy, see Annual Report of the Secretary of the Navy, December 7, 1863.

quarters District of Western Louisiana, I proceeded to Fort De Russy on the night of the 1st instant. I immediately made a full examination upon my arrival at the fort of the works and the position of the submerged guns. This examination was made after night and the report transmitted immediately. I found nothing to amend upon a renewed examination in the morning.

In twenty-four hours the submerged 32-pounder gun, and all the undamaged public property, excepting some pieces of railroad iron, was recovered and placed on board the barge ready to be towed to Alexandria, La. Just as this work was completed, an advance of the enemy's gunboats (three in number) was reported by the pickets under command of Lieutenant [H. A.] Frederic, of the signal corps. Capt. George Hite, of the steamer Countess, was immediately ordered by me to take the barge in tow. This he did, and steamed out of sight and danger up the river. In ten minutes after, the enemy made their appearance. The leading ship proved to be a steam propeller with two masts, mounting four guns on a side, and a pivot gun of heavy metal of [on] bow and stern. From the best information procurable, and the report of the pieces, the broadside guns were 32-pounder rifled cannon. This vessel took a position at about 500 yards from us. The remaining vessels of the enemy's fleet took position in favorable and shelling distances behind the woods farther down the river. We fired on the leading vessel twice before she replied.

The engagement now became general, and for one hour the contest was hotly disputed. In twenty minutes after the action commenced the Cotton, under the command of Lieut. E. T. King, was disabled by the cutting of her steam-pipe. Lieutenant King, however, continued to fight his boat with unflinching coolness. In a very short time after, it was reported to me that all the steering apparatus of the flag-ship was shot away. In fact, all the mechanical contrivances by which communication is conveyed from one part of the boat to another, bell-ropes, speaking tubes, &c., were shot to pieces. Captain White reported to me at the same time that he thought his boat unmanageable. The fight continued, however, with unabated energy until the leading gunboat of the enemy withdrew, apparently uninjured. This gave me the impression, and it was equally the impression of Lieutenant King, that, having divined our crippled condition, the enemy were drifting down the river in order to secure a position from which they could deliver the fire upon our unprotected flank. I therefore directed an examination to be made of our condition. This resulted in ascertaining that, by passing the word from man to man, the boat might be handled exclusively through the engines. Upon a brief consultation with my officers, I determined to run up the river a short distance, repair damages, and return. It seeming to me clear that should the three boats select their positions—as was practicable with them, owing to our damaged condition—that our destruction would be probable. We therefore ran up the river, repaired damages as rapidly as possible, and returned to the fort.

In the midst of the fight I observed with indignation and regret that the barge had been cast off from the Countess and had floated down against the raft. The Cotton, it was ascertained, could not be repaired at the fort, and it was absolutely necessary to save the barge and her valuable freight. I therefore took the Cotton and the barge in tow, and proceeded slowly toward Alexandria, La. The Countess made her appearance subsequently, and relieved us of the barge.

The Grand Duke was set on fire five times, but owing to the coolness

and energy of Capt. J. M. White, his officers and men, the fire was each time subdued.

I cannot conclude the report, major, without bearing testimony to the signal good conduct of the officers and men of the Crescent Artillery. First Lieut. W. Hervey and First Junior Lieut. T. H. Handy behaved in a manner to excite the admiration and rivet the confidence of every one who witnessed their intrepid conduct. Sergt. A. Mordis and Sergeant [J. J.] Dalton also deserve special notice for their admirable deportment during the action. When the alarm of fire was repeatedly given, I did not observe a man relax his energies at the pieces. To Lieut. E. T. King too much credit cannot be awarded. He discharged his duties with a fearlessness and composure which inspired confidence in those around him, and elicited the applause of all whose position enabled them to observe him.

The conduct of Lieut. M. Fogarty is reported to me by his commanding officer as deserving of high praise.

I beg leave to refer to the inclosed list of wounded and missing on both boats.

I have the honor to remain, major, your obedient servant,

J. KELSO,
Commanding Gunboat Fleet, off Grand Ecore.

Maj. E. SURGET,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Inclosures.]

STATION, GRAND ECORE, GUNBOAT COTTON,
May 12, 1863.

List* of wounded and missing of Capt. [E. W.] Fuller's company, Saint Martin Rangers, May 4, 1863, on board of C. S. gunboat Cotton, as follows: Wounded—officers, 1; enlisted men, 6; crew, 3. Missing—enlisted men, 1; crew, 3.

E. T. KING,
Lieutenant, Commanding Gunboat Cotton.

J. GAUTREAUX,
Acting Orderly Sergeant.

List* of wounded of the Crescent Artillery on board flag-ship Grand Duke, May 4, 1863, as follows: Enlisted men wounded, 7.

W. HERVEY,
First Lieutenant, Commanding Crescent Artillery.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF WESTERN LOUISIANA,
Natchitoches, May 14, 1863.

Respectfully forwarded. Captain [J.] Kelso, in command of the gunboats Grand Duke and Cotton, was sent down to Fort De Russy to remove the guns, ordnance stores, and other public property left at that point, which was successfully accomplished, and the enemy delayed in his advance up the river for forty-eight hours.

R. TAYLOR,
Major-General, Commanding.

* Nominal list omitted.

MAY 4, 1863.—Attempt of the tug George Sturgess to pass the Vicksburg batteries.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Lieut. Col. Judson D. Bingham, U. S. Army, Chief Quartermaster.
No. 2.—Lieut. James Marquess, Twenty-seventh Missouri Infantry.

No. 1.

Report of Lieut. Col. Judson D. Bingham, U. S. Army, Chief Quartermaster.

MILLIKEN'S BEND, LA., *May* 5, 1863.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that your instructions of April 30 were received at 11 a. m., May 1, in relation to sending two tugs with four barges down the river. I immediately commenced the execution of your instructions, and at 7 a. m., May 2, the four largest and best barges that I could obtain were loaded with subsistence stores. I made a written application to the commander of the troops here (Major-General Steele) for a detail to assist in loading the barges and preparing them for the trip. Captain [William] Gaster, assistant quartermaster, who had immediate charge of the preparation, by my direction, also made an application for a detail. None was furnished, and the loading and preparations were made by the mechanics employed in the quartermaster's department and a few negroes that I had collected. The force was so small that it was compelled to work night and day until the barges were ready.

On the evening of May 2, I heard that our troops had evacuated Young's Point, and that the enemy had landed near the abandoned camps. I then consulted with Major-General Sherman, who advised me to wait until the next night (3d), and he would send a force to occupy the Point, to prevent the capture of the boats from the Louisiana shore in case the tugs were compelled to land to repair any damages that might be sustained. I followed the advice of General Sherman, and delayed the departure of the boats until 10 p. m. of the 3d.

On the morning of the 3d, only two of the barges were in condition to start. One was sunk to the guards, and another leaking, and would not sustain enough hay to protect the tug. I was, therefore, compelled to send only one tug with two barges, as I could not prepare another tow in time. At 10 p. m. of the 3d, the tug with two barges was started down the river, with crew complete and a detail of the commissioned officers and 15 armed men to repel boarders. Soon after the tug rounded the Point, I saw several flashes from guns, but heard only two or three reports. The firing did not seem to be from very heavy guns. Soon after the firing commenced, I saw a light, which I supposed was made by the enemy on the Louisiana shore, but it passed down the river so rapidly as to satisfy me that the barges were on fire. Our troops had possession of a portion of the Point, and rescued one man from the wreck, whose statement I inclose herewith.*

I am now preparing two large barges, and can send them down the river at any time, but do not consider it advisable to do so without further instructions, as they are almost sure of destruction unless we

* Not found. Reference is probably to report of Lieut. James Marquess, following.

can send them on a dark night. In about three or four days the moon will be more favorable for the purpose. I am using every exertion to forward supplies in wagons, and have sent to Memphis for more transportation. It should be here in a day or two.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. BINGHAM,

Lieutenant-Colonel, and Chief Quartermaster Dept. of Tenn.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. James Marquess, Twenty-seventh Missouri Infantry.

[MAY —, 1863.]

I volunteered to run the blockade at Vicksburg on the steam tug George Sturgess, with two barges in tow, loaded with commissary stores and hay, on the night of the 3d of May, 1863.

We left the steamboat A. D. Hines at Young's Point, La., about 1 a. m. May 4. Just below the mouth of the lower canal, the enemy opened fire on us with infantry from the Louisiana side of the river. We returned the fire, but could not see that they were making any attempt to board us. The musketry fire did us no damage. The light guns of the batteries on the Mississippi side then commenced firing upon us. They struck us frequently with solid shot, but did no damage to either tug or barges. We were under a continual fire from this time until we reached the bend. We then ran under the range of a water battery. This battery opened fire on us, firing shells principally. The tug was struck by a shell from this battery, which exploded and blew her up, and set the tug and both barges on fire. I am under the impression that the shell that blew the tug up struck her on top of the boiler and exploded there. All the damage was done immediately. At the time the shell exploded on the tug, the barge on the Mississippi side of the river was in a sinking condition. The barge on the Louisiana side was uninjured up to the time of the explosion. The explosion of the shell made the fire general, both on the tug and barges. We were running at the rate of about 4 miles per hour when the first fire opened upon us. When the shell exploded, we were running at the rate of about 6 miles per hour, as near as I can judge.

After the explosion, the tug and barges being enveloped in flames, the men on board generally endeavored to make their escape from them. The enemy continued their fire, striking the barge next Vicksburg frequently. Their batteries appeared to play heavier at this time than they did before they struck the barges at all. Our men asked for no quarter for some fifteen minutes after the explosion. We were then in talking distance of the enemy. After quarter was asked, there was none given for probably thirty minutes, as near as I can judge. At the time quarter was asked for, I was swimming toward the Louisiana shore, having made my escape from the tug on a plank, and was about 50 yards from the barges. Some of the men were on the barges at this time—cannot state how many—and several were in the water, swimming for the Louisiana shore. The rebels continued their fire on the men in the water after they had left the barges.

The enemy eventually ceased firing, and came to the assistance of the men in the water with two skiffs. One came out and picked up the

men who were in the water, and the other skiff approached the barges. I supposed they were taking off the men that remained there, but cannot state whether they got any of them off the barges. I reached the Louisiana shore on a plank just above the mouth of the canal. When I reached the shore, which, I think, was about two hours after the explosion, the barges had drifted down the river some distance toward the Louisiana shore. When I arrived near the Louisiana shore, I found some of our troops there (think about three regiments), some of whom assisted me on shore out of the water. I think that the barges and tug were entirely consumed by fire. The last I saw of them they were all enveloped in flames.

JAMES MARQUESS,
First Lieutenant Company G, Twenty-seventh Missouri Volunteers.

MAY 5, 1863.—Action at King's Creek, near Tupelo, Miss.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army.
No. 2.—Lieut. Col. J. Cunningham, Second Alabama Cavalry.
No. 3.—Maj. W. A. Hewlett, Thirteenth Alabama Battalion, Partisan Rangers.
No. 4.—Lieut. Col. C. R. Barteau, Second Tennessee Cavalry.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Daniel Ruggles, C. S. Army.

OKOLONA, *May* 14, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to forward the following report for the information of the lieutenant-general commanding the department:

On the morning of the 5th instant, reports reached me at this place, where I had necessarily been detained, of another advance of the enemy from the direction of Burnsville with a force of about 5,000 mounted men and six pieces of artillery. Toward evening I received information from Colonel Barteau, then at Verona, that Major [W. M.] Inge's battalion was skirmishing with the advance of the enemy near Tupelo, and that his main body was believed to be moving down east of Town Creek, in the direction of Camargo. For the purpose of impeding his march in that direction and to prevent his crossing Town Creek, I ordered the ferry-boats sunk and the bridges destroyed. I had received as a reenforcement Major [W.] Boyles' battalion of Alabama cavalry, some 350 strong, and immediately on the reception of the report of enemy's advance prepared for movement in the field. Dispatched to West Point for the return to this station of four companies of the Third Kentucky Regiment (mounted men), they having been ordered to Jackson by the morning train. These troops arrived in the evening, disembarked, and were ready for the field the ensuing morning at 2 o'clock. Taking the two battalions already named and a section of Owens' guns, under Lieutenant [J. F.] Thompson, proceeded a distance of 10 miles to Sanders'

* For Union reports, see Series I, Vol. XXIII, Part I, pp. 241-261.

Mills, toward Verona, where we arrived about sunrise, and awaited information of the enemy from Colonel [C. R.] Barteau, who had been instructed to communicate with me at that point and from other sources.

Previously to moving from Okolona, I sent a communication to General Chalmers, then represented as near Pontotoc, giving information received respecting the enemy. After a brief delay at Sanders' Mills, I obtained information from Colonel Barteau that the enemy had been during the previous night at Tupelo, and that he would move up with his troops for the purpose of reconnoitering him to ascertain his strength and position, and would, in the event of its becoming necessary, fall back upon the road on which I was advancing. I then pushed forward rapidly, and, before reaching Verona, received a message indicating that Colonel Barteau with my advanced forces was then at Harrisburg, some 2½ miles west of Tupelo, and I immediately moved in that direction, and when near that place received a dispatch from Colonel Barteau, stating that the enemy had retreated precipitately the previous night along the railroad toward Corinth. I ordered a strong scout of two companies to push forward immediately in pursuit of the enemy, and then distributed the troops in new positions, sending the four companies of the Third Kentucky (mounted men) to Okolona, to take the down train for Meridian, in conformity with previous orders.

Subsequently, I learned that the enemy numbered 2,000 or 2,500 cavalry, with six guns, comprising the Tenth Missouri, Seventh Iowa [Kansas], and Ninth Illinois, with two companies of mounted infantry, all under the command of Colonel Quinine [Cornyn]; that from 15 to 20 were killed, and from 30 to 40 wounded in the previous day's encounter; that they burned some transportation, destroyed supplies and camp equipage, and broke down the bridges in their precipitate retreat.

On our part, as near as I can learn, we lost 5 killed and 7 or 8 wounded (Confederate troops), and of the State troops 30 are represented to have been taken prisoners.

Previous to this conflict, on account of unsettled questions of rank, and for want of harmony among the commanders of my battalions in advance, I had sent verbal instructions that they should, in cases of emergency, obey the orders of the senior on the field, and even in coming in contact with the State troops in my absence, out of courtesy to General [S. J.] Gholson, and to preserve concert of action, should yield obedience temporarily to him as their commander.

I deem it expedient to observe at this point that communication between Okolona and Verona is attended with many difficulties, on account of four intermediate streams, bordered by bottom lands and morasses, almost impassable for cavalry during the rainy season, and but recently found practicable.

In conclusion, I respectfully recommend to your attention accompanying report of Lieut. Col. C. R. Barteau, who, with his command, is entitled to special consideration on account of good conduct in this as in some previous encounters with the enemy.

Major Inge's battalion (under Captain [P. A.] Mann), a portion of Major Hewlett's battalion, and two companies of the Second Alabama regiment, are also entitled to commendation for their good conduct.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DANIEL RUGGLES,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 2.

Report of Lieut. Col. J. Cunningham, Second Alabama Cavalry.

NEAR VERONA, *May* 8, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of my operations on Tuesday, the 5th instant:

Soon after my arrival at this place on Tuesday morning, I received information through my scouts and Colonel [C. R.] Barteau that the enemy was 6 miles east of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, marching in the direction of Verona, to which place I hastened with all possible dispatch. While there, I received orders from Maj. Gen. S. J. Gholson to proceed immediately to Tupelo. On my way to the latter place, my advanced guard came upon the enemy. As my scouts had on that morning reported the enemy to be near Miller's Mills, and as I had been ordered to Tupelo without any warning that there was any probability of being intercepted on my way thither, I must state that my coming upon the enemy was quite unexpected. Lieutenant [C. C.] Dodd, of the advanced guard, reported the enemy in line on my right, just across the creek, about half a mile this side of Tupelo. I accordingly drew up my regiment into line of battle, facing to the right. Lieutenant Dodd with the advanced guard was during this time skirmishing with the enemy, and had succeeded in capturing 10 prisoners, who were sent back to the rear and there retaken by the enemy. As soon as my command were formed into line, the enemy opened upon me a cross-fire of artillery and musketry. I then discovered that I was ambuscaded on the right and left, and I determined to extricate my command as soon as practicable. I ordered a countermarch from the left, but as Companies B and I had faced to the rear and left to check the enemy who were closing in upon my rear, they did not receive my orders and were left on the field. I passed on with the rest of my command out through the west edge of Tupelo, and took the road to Chesterville, where I learned General Gholson was at the time. The companies who were left behind attempted to rejoin the regiment, but Captain [W. H.] Daniel, who was in command of them, reports that he was entirely cut off by the enemy and forced to fall back toward the direction of Verona. In doing so he kept up a brisk skirmish with the enemy's cavalry, who were endeavoring to surround him.

In this engagement my loss was: Killed, 2 men and 3 horses; wounded, 2 horses; missing, 3 men and 3 horses.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. CUNNINGHAM,

Lieutenant-Colonel, Comdg. Second Alabama Cavalry Regt.

Capt. ROY MASON HOOE,

Assistant Adjutant-General, District No. 1.

No. 3.

Report of Maj. W. A. Hewlett, Thirteenth Alabama Battalion, Partisan Rangers.

OKOLONA, MISS., *May* 7, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to state, for the information of the brigadier-general commanding First District, Department of Mississippi and East Louisiana, that on Thursday, May 5, at about 11 a. m., while

encamped about 4 miles west of Verona, I received orders to proceed at once to Verona, intelligence having been received that the enemy had driven in Major [W. M.] Inge's pickets in the neighborhood of Tupelo. On my arrival at Verona, the column moved toward Tupelo, Colonel [J.] Cunningham in front. My command, which consisted of detachments of four companies (about 140 in all), constituted the left wing. The enemy's pickets were driven in about 1 mile from the scene of action. In the neighborhood of King's Creek, one-half mile west of Tupelo, while my command was crossing a large corn-field, Colonel Cunningham drove in the enemy's advance guard, and immediately crossed the creek and proceeded into the heavy timber on the opposite side. My command followed with as little delay as possible, considering the difficulty of fording, and proceeded into the wood about 100 yards in the rear of Colonel Cunningham. Colonel Cunningham pushed on in pursuit of the enemy's advance guard, without drawing the fire of his main body, which was in ambush. On reaching a ridge about 100 yards from the creek, I first received the fire from the enemy's left wing, at a distance of from 25 to 40 yards. I returned the fire and dismounted my right wing. Several of the horses of my left becoming unmanageable, they faltered. The enemy raised a yell and attempted a charge, but were held in check by my right wing.

At this time Lieutenant-Colonel [C. R.] Barteau came to my assistance on the right; poured a volley into the enemy, driving him back about 200 yards, to a more advantageous position. The firing then commenced from their whole line, with three pieces of artillery, two making a cross-fire from each wing and one from the center. It is said by those at a distance they fired 40 rounds from each gun. Just before the firing ceased, Colonel Barteau informed me that two regiments were attempting a flank movement on the left, and ordered me to recross the creek and form on the opposite side, which I did under a heavy fire. I was here joined by two rear companies of the Second Alabama, which were cut off. After crossing the creek, the firing ceased along the whole line, and Colonel Barteau came out a few minutes afterward. I then moved with Colonel Barteau's command to Chesterville, 1½ miles west of Tupelo, and continued driving in the enemy's pickets and skirmishing until night.

My loss is 1 killed, 3 wounded, and 2 missing. I also lost 12 horses.

Without attaching too much importance to the affair, I consider it my duty to mention Capt. Jacob R. Shepherd, First Lieut. Samuel P. Morrow, and First Lieut H. H. Bibb as worthy of praise for gallant and meritorious conduct.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. A. HEWLETT,
Major, Commanding.

Capt. L. D. SANDIDGE,
Acting Assistant Adjutant and Inspector General.

No. 4.

Report of Lieut. Col. C. R. Barteau, Second Tennessee Cavalry.

VERONA, MISS., *May* 8, 1863.

Having been ordered to this place from the Pontotoc and Shannon road on the morning of the 3d instant, I reached here at 10 a. m. There

was then no reliable account of an advance of the enemy, as rumored down the line of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, but in the evening of the 4th instant I learned that a mounted force of the enemy (strength not known) had reached Baldwyn that morning, and was marching rapidly in this direction. I considered it only a reconnoitering party, and made no immediate report; but at 12 o'clock the same day the enemy drove in the pickets at Guntown and advanced toward Saltillo. The lieutenant in charge of scouts at Guntown reported the force to be three regiments with artillery, and a prisoner whom he had captured and sent in stated that the force would not exceed 900.

Late in the evening of the 4th [instant], scouts from Inge's battalion were fired upon between Tupelo and Saltillo, east side of the railroad. That night the enemy advanced to Priceville, and by daylight on the 5th passed that place toward Plantersville, with the evident intention of moving down between Town Creek and Tombigbee River, to cross at Camargo, threatening Aberdeen, on Mobile and Ohio Railroad below Okolona; but by the delay of the enemy near Miller's Mills, north of Plantersville, I was led to apprehend that his intention was to cross Town Creek at Reece's Bridge, and immediately ordered Inge's battalion to that point, to destroy the bridge and prevent his crossing. Upon arriving at Reece's Bridge, Inge's battalion was confronted by a force of the enemy which it could not successfully contend with, and fell back to Thomasson's farm, 1¼ miles from the bridge.

In the mean time Lieutenant-Colonel [James] Cunningham arrived at Verona and assumed command of all the troops. Received an order from Major-General [S. J.] Gholson, of the State service, to join him at Tupelo. Started with his command by the most direct route, and ordered me, with Second Tennessee Cavalry, to go by way of Reece's Bridge. I arrived near the bridge; found that the enemy had crossed, and that Inge's battalion had fallen back. Moved then to Thomasson's farm, where I rejoined Colonel Cunningham, *en route* for Tupelo, and followed his column with Inge's battalion in rear of my regiment. Colonel Cunningham moved immediately forward without (so far as my knowledge extends) reconnoitering or sending out flankers; passed into the thick woods and swamp south of Tupelo, and encountered the enemy in ambush just before arriving at the Tupelo and Pontotoc road. A few shots from the enemy announced his presence, and he reserved his heavy fire until the column had passed nearly half way through, and then opened with small-arms and artillery upon both flanks, cutting off two companies of the Second Alabama, with Hewlett's battalion and my own command, consisting of Second Tennessee Regiment and Inge's battalion. The advanced portion of Colonel Cunningham's command (probably consisting of 400 men) passed between the two fires of the enemy and moved to his rear. The enemy then immediately closed in upon the front of the advancing column and poured a rapid fire upon us from three directions. The fire was so severe that all of Hewlett's battalion could not form and dismount, as directed; hence it gave way with the exception of two companies, which, having received their position, remained upon the ground immediately in front and fought gallantly. I at once ordered the Second Tennessee into line and to dismount, which was executed promptly and in good order, and the horses sent to the rear out of reach of the enemy's fire. By keeping the men close to the ground and behind trees, taking deliberate aim at the enemy, we succeeded in the course of fifteen or twenty minutes in driving the enemy some 500 yards beyond the Tupelo and Pontotoc road. The number of killed of the enemy has been reported by prisoners who es-

caped from his hands and citizens of Tupelo to have been 20 or more, and the wounded many times as great.

The loss, as nearly as can be ascertained, in the Second Tennessee and Inge's battalion was 6 wounded and 8 captured. Several horses were killed and wounded.

I then withdrew the men from the engagement and moved to Harrisburg, the enemy still remaining at Tupelo in line of battle, awaiting another attack. I withdrew to Verona.

The next morning moved, under orders from General Gholson, to Harrisburg, and, finding that during the night previous the enemy had retreated toward Guntown, pursued 2 miles and returned.

It may be well to state that, after running the gauntlet of the enemy's fire and getting in his rear, Lieutenant-Colonel Cunningham continued his march to Chesterville or vicinity, where, finding General Gholson, he returned by a circuitous route to Verona at 9 p. m. Had he fought the enemy vigorously in his rear, or rejoined the troops which were left in the ambuscade, the result might have been more favorable for us. The force of the enemy was not less than 1,500, with six pieces of artillery (6-pounder guns). The various commands of the enemy were Ninth Illinois Regiment, Seventh Kansas, Tenth Missouri, and two companies of mounted infantry, commanded by Colonel Quinine [F. M. Cornyn]. The force which I had engaged did not exceed 500.

I am, captain, your obedient servant,

C. R. BARTEAU,
Lieutenant-Colonel.

[Capt.] ROY MASON HOOE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MAY 10, 1863.—Skirmishes at Caledonia and Pin Hook, La.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Reid, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Sixth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 2.—Maj. William Y. Roberts, First Kansas Infantry.

No. 3.—Col. Frank A. Bartlett, Beauregard Regiment, Louisiana Militia.

No. 1.

Report of Brig. Gen. Hugh T. Reid, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Sixth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps.

PROVIDENCE, LA., *May* 12, 1863.

I have the honor to report that on the 2d instant some 80 of the enemy crossed over Bayou Macon in the vicinity of Bissell's cut, at Ashton, and carried away 15 or 20 negroes. Learning this fact, I made a reconnaissance on the 3d instant to that point with a company of mounted infantry, in command of Major Roberts, of the First Kansas, and became satisfied, from information received from reliable sources, that the enemy on the west side of the bayou had concentrated his forces in the vicinity of Caledonia for the purpose of making raids to this side. It was practicable to cross the bayou in that vicinity, and there were great difficulties in the way of crossing it at any other point. I there-

fore determined to withdraw the whole of the First Kansas Mounted Infantry from the plantations below Providence and concentrate them on Old River, knowing there could be no danger to the plantations whilst the enemy was so far north.

On the morning of the 8th, Captain Zesch, with six companies of the First Kansas, succeeded in reaching the bayou, and crossed some 20 of his men, under command of Lieutenant Thompson, on a raft, near Caledonia. Here he found the enemy in too great force and too strongly posted to risk anything more than a reconnaissance, and fell back to camp on Old River to await re-enforcements.

On the evening of the 8th instant, I sent Major Roberts to take command, and sent forward 100 men from the Sixteenth Wisconsin, under Captain Wheeler, by steamer, to Old River, and also sent forward three additional companies from the First Kansas, leaving one company at this place.

Major Roberts moved from Old River with the command on the morning of the 9th, and built a bridge over Bayou Macon during the day, and crossed over on the morning of the 10th, when he met the enemy in the most gallant manner, driving them from their positions at Caledonia and pursuing them to their cover in log-houses at Pin Hook, killing 4 of their men and taking 2 prisoners, besides wounding a number. As the enemy could not be dislodged without artillery, the expedition returned to the bayou, and remained on the other side until the afternoon of the 11th without further encountering the enemy.

The First Regiment of Arkansas Volunteers, of African descent, under Colonel Wood, arrived here from Helena on the evening of the 10th, and I moved them and 50 men of the Sixteenth Wisconsin during the night to Old River, to be within supporting distance in case the fight should be continued on the 11th, but met a dispatch from Major Roberts which rendered it unnecessary to move them farther.

I crossed Bayou Macon to our troops on the other side of the bayou on the morning of the 11th, and, finding that nothing more could be done without artillery, recrossed during the day, destroyed the bridge, and brought the troops to Providence, except four companies of the First Kansas, left at Old River to watch the movements of the enemy.

Major Roberts, of the First Kansas, deserves great credit for the masterly manner in which he executed my orders in this attack, having accomplished everything that was expected of him. Captain Zesch, of the same regiment, is also entitled to praise for the skill and prudence with which he managed his part of the command. Captain Wheeler, of the Sixteenth Wisconsin, led his men against the enemy in gallant style, and both officers and men of these two regiments acted with great bravery, and deserve high commendation. For further details I refer you to the report of Major Roberts, herewith inclosed. The present disposition of the troops under my command is as follows: Four companies First Kansas at Old River; two companies at Wilton's; three at Bass' plantation, 4 miles below Providence, and one at this place. The Sixteenth Wisconsin, First Arkansas, and Eighth Louisiana Volunteers, of African descent, at this place, and the Tenth Louisiana, of African descent, at Goodrich's Landing, with the commissioners.

The Eighth Louisiana has been mustered into the service, and six, if not seven, companies of the Tenth Louisiana. Both these regiments are improving rapidly in drill, and are partially armed, and I hope to have them fully armed and equipped in a few days, as requisitions have gone forward. I have also sent for some artillery, which I hope to get from Helena. General ——— is said to be in command at

Floyd, and to have brought up from Delhi 1,500 men and some artillery to re-enforce the Thirteenth Louisiana Battalion, with which we had the fight.

The rebels claim to have 10,000 troops at Monroe, brought down from Little Rock to be sent to Alexandria, but say that Banks' army was falling back from Alexandria, and these troops were not sent there. If this is true, these troops may be expected to operate in this direction and toward Milliken's Bend.

The negroes and much property west of the bayou are being run off to Texas, though there are plenty of provisions, such as corn and hogs, left. The secesh hereabouts say that if Vicksburg falls the war is at an end in Louisiana. I have had most of the negroes who were unemployed here removed to the commissioners at Goodrich's Landing.

Since writing the above, I have learned, from what I believe to be a reliable source, that no troops have been sent from Monroe toward Bayou Macon; that 3,000, instead of 10,000, came from Little Rock to Monroe; that these troops have been sent to re-enforce Colonel [General] Taylor and Kirby Smith, on Red River, who were retreating before Banks' army; that General Hébert is at Monroe, in command of only 60 men (conscripts), and that he has had his things packed up for the last three weeks (in two wagons) on the west side of the Washita River, ready to run on the approach of our forces. This information is derived from a New Hampshire Yankee, who has just made his escape from Monroe. He says that the troops are to be withdrawn from this side of the Washita, which I think is altogether probable from the movements we know to be going on west of the bayou.

H. T. REID,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Maj. Gen. J. B. MCPHERSON,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 2.

Report of Maj. William Y. Roberts, First Kansas Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST KANSAS MOUNTED INFANTRY,
Camp Butler, near Lake Providence, La., May 11, 1863.

SIR: In obedience to your orders, I proceeded, in command of a detachment of 100 men of the Sixteenth Regiment Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, composed of detachments from Company G, Captain Wheeler; Company A, Captain Gallagher; Company I, Captain Stevens, and Company E, Lieutenants Vidal and Monroe, to Old River, for the purpose of co-operating with Captain Zesch, commanding six companies of the First Kansas Volunteer (now mounted) Infantry, sent on an expedition west of Bayou Macon.

On reaching Old River, on the evening of the 8th, I found Captain Zesch had fallen back to that post with his command for rations. I at once assumed command of the troops at Old River, consisting of Companies A, B, F, G, H, and I, of the First Kansas, and the above detachment from the Sixteenth Wisconsin, and marched the next morning at daylight to a point on Bayou Macon, near Caledonia, where it was reported the rebels were posted with a force of about 800 men.

On reaching the bayou, I found it impossible to cross with mounted

troops without a bridge. I detailed Lieutenant Paetz, Company F, First Kansas, with as many men as could be worked to advantage, and instructed him to throw a bridge across the bayou at Old's Ferry. I was here joined by Company C, Captain Reed; Company F, Lieutenant Thompson, and Company K, Lieutenant Hutt, of the First Kansas.

At sun-up the next morning Lieutenant Paetz reported the bridge finished, and in twenty minutes the whole command passed over. I found the enemy strongly posted in Caledonia, at a brick-kiln to the left of Caledonia, and three other points, in heavy timber and negro quarters on the bluffs still to the left, extending one-half mile below the bridge, and presenting a front of about 1½ miles, and distant from the bayou 1 mile, over cleared bottom land, divided in the center longitudinally by Hill Bayou. I formed a line by placing Captain Zesch's squadron, composed of Companies G and I, and Lieutenant Mack's squadron, composed of Companies B and E, Captain Howard's squadron, composed of Companies A and H, on the right; Captain Reed's squadron, composed of Companies C and F, on the extreme left; and the Wisconsin infantry, commanded by Captain Wheeler, in the center, leaving Company K, Lieutenant Hutt, to guard the bridge.

I then ordered Captain Wheeler to advance through a piece of detached woodland to dislodge any enemy that might be concealed there, and to advance his skirmishers to the Pin Hook road at the foot of the bluffs, to test the strength of the enemy in front of my center. This order was promptly obeyed, and the skirmishers of the enemy were driven from the road back upon his line of battle, formed at the edge of the timber, and his whole line of 300 men forced into the woods by the skirmishers of the glorious old Sixteenth without bringing into action any other portion of the detachment.

Being satisfied that Captain Wheeler, with Company K, of the First Kansas, could defend the bridge against any force that could be brought from that direction, I ordered Captain Zesch with his squadron to charge the enemy in Caledonia, and to turn his extreme left and take his other positions in flank and rear. This movement was most skillfully and successfully made, and sending Lieutenant Mack to his assistance, the two squadrons charged boldly over ditches and levees, made for drainage, but forming excellent rifle-pits, into the heavy timber on the bluffs, studded with negro quarters, and, coming down on the left flank of the enemy's positions on the bluff successively, soon dispersed his whole left wing.

Seeing the left of the enemy broken, I ordered Captain Howard's squadron to the extreme left, fronting the Pin Hook road, to charge the enemy in flank, should he retreat in that direction. Captain Reed dismounted one company of his squadron, and Company E, Lieutenant Cowan, having charged down the Pin Hook road to the right of Captain Wheeler's position, I ordered these two companies, together with Captain Wheeler's command, to advance in the timber across the road and force the enemy from this strong position.

This order was most satisfactorily obeyed by the lion-hearted men and brave officers in command, and in a few moments the whole force of the enemy was in full retreat across the hill country in the direction of Pin Hook, a place distant 9 miles from Caledonia and 3 miles west of the bayou. Understanding from prisoners that the enemy expected a re-enforcement of 1,500 men from Delhi, I determined to make a rapid dash upon Pin Hook, and to reach that place, if possible, before the arrival of re-enforcements and before the scattered forces of the enemy could rally and concentrate there.

With this view I ordered the Sixteenth back to the bridge, with instructions to defend it; sent an order to Captain Zesch and Lieutenant Mack to follow by the bayou road, and sending Captain Reed with his squadron by a right-hand road leading also to Pin Hook, I put myself at the head of Captain Howard's squadron and Company E, and moved forward at a speed equal to the full capacity of our animals.

Near the town Captain Reed's squadron joined the leading squadron, and as our advance guard approached the town we received a heavy fire from the enemy, posted in and behind log-houses, by which Lieutenant Ford, who commanded the advance guard, and 2 men of his command were wounded.

The two squadrons and Company E dismounted and skirmished with the enemy until I found him so strongly posted that he could not be dislodged without a larger force or by the assistance of artillery.

In this skirmish Lieutenant Dilworth, a brave and promising young officer, was unfortunately killed. I then recalled the skirmishers, hoping to draw the enemy from his position, but this was unsuccessful. After remaining some time, and making an unsuccessful effort to obtain a wagon to remove the remains of Lieutenant Dilworth, I deposited his body in a house and marched back to the bridge, meeting Captain Zesch and Lieutenant Mack, who reported that they had fallen into an ambuscade by which 3 men of Company B were wounded and 1 horse killed, but that they rallied at once, charged the enemy into the woods and drove them before them, killing 1 and wounding a number. I remained at the bridge during the night of the 10th, and sent out some scouting parties in the morning, who brought in a refugee white family a large number of contrabands, some horses, mules, and cattle. We then marched back to our camp on Old River and at this place.

Casualties: Killed—First Lieut. George M. Dilworth, Company H. Wounded—Lieutenant Ford, Company A, slightly in left leg; Sergts. G. Smith and Patrick Fitzgerald, and Corpl. Thomas Grady, Company B; Privates John Dwyer, Thomas Williams, and Levi W. Tillottson, Company E; Private Dennis Hogan, Company G. Missing—Corporal [Joseph] Stewart, Company B; Sergeant [John] Woods, Company H; John Moore, Company G. Private Manley Knowlton, Company D, one of my orderlies, was unfortunately drowned in trying to swim a bayou on the field of battle while carrying a dispatch from Captain Wheeler to myself.

The loss of the enemy must be considerable in killed and wounded. Without making any systematic search, we found 4 dead bodies. We have 2 prisoners.

The object of this expedition having been to ascertain the strength of the enemy west of Bayou Macon, I am able to report that the best information I could obtain was that they had at Caledonia about 500 men of the Thirteenth [Battalion] Louisiana Cavalry and perhaps 300 irregular troops, and that he had at Pin Hook and in that vicinity about 1,000, and, perhaps, Captain Williams' battery. The resources of the hill country are by no means exhausted—corn, cattle, and hogs are abundant for a sparsely settled country.

The officers and men under my command all deserve your commendation.

I met with no single instance of cowardice, incapacity, or insubordination in the command, and if any one excelled in the manly virtues of a soldier it was because chance threw opportunities in his way that were denied to others.

You will allow me to mention Captain Zesch, of the First Kansas, as

a brave and skillful officer, and also to bespeak your thanks to Captain Wheeler, the senior officer of the detachment from the Sixteenth Wisconsin, for the very excellent manner in which he handled his tried and brave men. I am also compelled to name Lieutenant Ford, who led the advance guard into Pin Hook, as an officer whose bravery has been tested and found to have the ring of the true metal. I would further beg leave to call your attention to the superiority of the First Kansas as mounted troops, and to say that my experience in this expedition has strengthened my convictions of the great benefits that would result from arming this regiment with revolvers and attaching to it a section of light artillery. With these arms the regiment would be invaluable as scouts; could pass with celerity and ferret out and break up the rendezvous of guerrilla parties and give quiet and protection to the country.

I have the honor to be, yours to command,

W. Y. ROBERTS,
Maj. 1st Kans. Vols., Comdg. Expedition West of Bayou Macon.

Brig. Gen. H. T. REID,
Commanding Post at Lake Providence, La.

No. 3.

Report of Col. Frank A. Bartlett, Beauregard Regiment, Louisiana Militia.

HEADQUARTERS FORCES OF BAYOU MACON,
Floyd, La., May 12, 1862.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that late on the evening of Saturday, the 9th instant, I received information at Delhi, La., that the enemy in force had established themselves at Caledonia, on Williams' plantation, occupying the back yard, negro quarters, and other defensive positions. I proceeded at once to the scene of action, arriving at noon on Sunday. I learned through the outposts that the enemy had divided at Caledonia, and were marching on Pin Hook from two directions in columns of 300 men each. Captain [W. H.] Corbin, commanding a small force of some 130 men, consisting of detachments from several companies, learning that an attempt was being made to attack him simultaneously in front and rear, fell back, made a circuit, and with a part of his command ambushed that column of the enemy which was marching on Pin Hook by what is called the Hill road, running along the bank of Bayou Macon. He attacked them at a suitable point, killing 12 or 13 and wounding as many more, losing but 1 man, and driving the enemy back in disorder. Captain [John] McKoin, commanding the remainder of Captain Corbin's command—consisting of Captain McKoin's company and a detachment of a company in course of organization under Captain [John] McNeil—aware, from the nature of the country, that his rear was exposed, judged it expedient to fall back toward Floyd. I directed him to take position at Pin Hook, protecting his rear with a strong guard.

Shortly afterward the enemy appeared in force approaching Pin Hook by the road leading from Chambliss', or Lane's Ferry. They were allowed to approach within 60 yards, when we opened fire upon them. They retreated in disorder about half a mile, but rallied, deploying skirmishers on each side of the road, firing briskly for about three-quarters

of an hour. I kept our men concealed and well protected by trees and houses, returning their fire only when it could be done effectually, and suffering no injury. At dark the enemy drew off, retiring in some confusion across the Macon. They have since made no demonstrations of any kind. The force of the enemy was estimated at between 800 and 1,000. Ours did not exceed 250 men.

Our loss was 2 killed and 2 captured. That of the enemy, as near as I can ascertain, was near, if not quite, 50 in killed, wounded, and missing, among whom were 1 lieutenant killed and 1 wounded. Three prisoners were captured, with six Belgium rifles with equipments.

It gives me pleasure to be able to speak in terms of praise of the skill and courage displayed, respectively, by Captains Corbin, McKoin, McNeil, and Johnson; and to Capt. John B. Williams, whose familiar acquaintance with the country and prompt action was of great advantage to me, I am largely indebted for the success of the day. The men behaved admirably, obeying orders implicitly and exhibiting an eagerness for the work before them and a courage in it highly to their credit.

Since the above was written, scouts have come in informing me that the enemy had retired across the Macon, destroying the bridge. But there is good reason to apprehend an attack lower down the bayou, and I am preparing to meet it. Should they attack in force, it will be difficult to repel them, as my force is very small and there are several points to guard, making it necessary to divide almost into companies.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK A. BARTLETT,
Colonel, Commanding Forces on Bayou Macon.

Capt. SAMUEL BOYER DAVIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

MAY 10, 1863.—Attack on Fort Beauregard, La.

Report of Lieut. Col. George W. Logan, Chalmette Regiment, Louisiana Militia.

FORT BEAUREGARD,
Harrisonburg, May 10, 1863.

CAPTAIN: Four Federal gunboats came up this morning at 2 o'clock. They anchored at the mouth of the Bushley, and immediately sent a flag of truce. I dispatched Captain Benton and Lieutenant Blanchard to meet the flag and state that I would hold the fort forever. Lieutenant [William W.] Fowler represented the Federal Government. He informed us that Commodore [Selim E.] Woodworth commanded the fleet, and demanded the unconditional surrender of the fort and its surroundings. If we did not accede to the demand, they would give us one hour to move the women and children out of the town.

Captain Benton responded that the only answer he could give was that the fort would be defended at all hazards, and that the women and children were already moved.

The flag of truce returned, and an hour afterward three of the gunboats began shelling. They have fired some 150 shots, but have done no damage, only knocking up some of the parapet. They have destroyed one house in the town.

We have fired but a few shots, as they are a little out of range, and are waiting for them to approach us to give them their deserts. Our firing is accurate, but falls short, and therefore I shall fire no more until they come nearer. Lieutenant Carter has this instant been seriously wounded.

We should have more troops between here and Alexandria.

I shall hold the fort, with God's blessing.

Your obedient servant, in haste,

GEO. WM. LOGAN,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Post.

Capt. SAMUEL BOYER DAVIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Monroe, La.

P. S.—6.15 p. m. The enemy has shelled us steadily until this time, but has this instant retired; I suppose for a little rest.

MAY 11, 1863.—Raid on the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, near Crystal Springs, Miss.

Report of Col. Clark Wright, Sixth Missouri Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS SIXTH MISSOURI CAVALRY VOLUNTEERS,
Roach's Plantation, May 11, 1863.

COLONEL: I left this place at 6 a. m. this morning, and by a circuitous route reached the Jackson and New Orleans Railroad, with some 200 men, 1½ miles north of Crystal Springs, distant 25 miles. I at once placed one-half of the command in the best position for defense that the circumstances would admit, and with the other half proceeded to destroy the telegraph line and railroad. I took out 1½ miles of wire, and burned it on top of three bridges I destroyed. I cut the road by tearing up the rails at three points. I burned out one culvert, and warped the rails materially at two points by building large fires on them. In the aggregate, 1½ miles of road is destroyed, and will require at least five or six days to repair it. I burned some one hundred and twenty-five bales of cotton, marked C. S. A., paroled 18 citizens, and captured 15 prisoners and a number of mules and horses brought to camp. I learned that some 4,500 troops had passed up to Jackson from Port Hudson within the last four days, on the railroad, and about the same number by land, or marching.

Within the last ten days they have called in all the forces to Jackson from the surrounding country.

I am now in the same camp I left this morning. Have marched 50 miles to day, in addition to the labor performed and above specified. My command is worn down by incessant labor for the last twenty days and nights, and would respectfully ask permission to rest men and horses for one day.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CLARK WRIGHT,
Colonel, Commanding Sixth Missouri Cavalry Volunteers.

Lieut Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the Tennessee.

MAY 11–15, 1863.—Expedition from La Grange, Tenn., to Panola, Miss., and skirmishes (11th) at Coldwater and (14th) at Walnut Hill, Miss.

REPORTS.

No. 1.—Col. Edward Hatch, Second Iowa Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade.
No. 2.—Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding military district, of skirmish (14th).

No. 1.

Report of Col. Edward Hatch, Second Iowa Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Brigade.

LA GRANGE, TENN., *May* 16, 1863.

CAPTAIN: Complying with Brigadier-General Smith's order to proceed with my command to the neighborhood of Panola, Miss., attack General Chalmers' (Confederate) forces if found, and procure all the mules and horses in my way, and not to be absent, if possible, more than four days, moved from camp at La Grange, May 11, with 500 of the Second Iowa Cavalry, 350 of the Sixth Iowa Infantry, and three 2-pounders of the First Illinois Artillery, southwest toward Tallaloosa, at the same time sending 150 men of the Seventh Illinois Cavalry south of Ripley, to cover any flank movement from Okolona. Near the crossing of Coldwater came upon Major [A. H.] Chalmers' (Confederate) battalion, which my advance routed, capturing 3 prisoners. Camped that night 5 miles west of Holly Springs.

Marched the following day south, and camped near Chulahoma. Learning that night that General Chalmers was expected at Senatobia, marched rapidly on the morning of the 13th to that place. Found there only a company of the enemy, of whom we captured 6 prisoners and the telegraph operator at that point. Pushing my advance to the neighborhood of Sardis, and not finding the enemy in force, dispatched parties in all directions to accumulate animals. By 3 o'clock in the afternoon, having brought in about 600 animals, resumed my march toward La Grange, camping about 7 miles from Senatobia, on Jim Wolf Creek.

About 2 o'clock of the morning of the 14th, the enemy made an attack upon my pickets, evidently intending to surprise the camp, and were handsomely repulsed by the pickets. At daylight they again made a more spirited attack, but our pickets having been strongly reenforced, drove the enemy back; and supposing this was the last attack, took up my line of march north, drawing in the pickets, which the enemy followed up quickly with his artillery, shelling the swamp my command was passing through, giving me considerable annoyance. Moving the Second Iowa to the rear to fight, I learned the enemy was moving north on a parallel road to the one I was on, with the evident intention of getting upon my left flank; I moved steadily forward. The enemy again attacked me at Walnut Hill, striking the left flank of my rear guard, charging spiritedly upon two companies of rifles of the Second Iowa Cavalry, who repulsed the enemy, driving them out of the town. When near the crossing of the Hecula, 5 miles north of Walnut Hill, the enemy again attacked, having pushed up three pieces of artillery on the hills commanding the swamp, at about a mile distance, and began shelling the command, creating a stampede among the led animals and negroes. Leaving one-half of the command to take care of the led animals, I moved rapidly to the rear to fight, deploying on the

first high ground toward the enemy, opening with two of the 2-pounders on their guns, and pushing my skirmishers and line forward to a good position, and having but 450 men to fight (it required one-half of my command to take care of the animals) against from what I could ascertain from prisoners was from 1,000 to 2,000 men. One of the enemy's guns getting into position in a point of woods on my right, gave me considerable trouble until we drove it from its position with the 2-pounders and skirmishers. I here awaited the enemy's attack, who continued shelling the road and woods in the swamp.

An hour having passed, and my led animals having crossed the stream, and safe from the enemy's shells, and the enemy declining to attack, I crossed the bridge and did not destroy it, meaning to allow Chalmers to cross one-half of his command and then attack him. Waiting some time, and finding that the enemy did not follow, I pushed rapidly to the Coldwater, which point, I had every reason to believe, the enemy had sent a force to hold, but I hoped to crush it before Chalmers could come up. On reaching this crossing, there was evidence that the force we had expected to contest the passage had decamped hurriedly, moving west. Camped that night near Coldwater. During the night many of the negroes, for some reason, either from the fear that the camp would be shelled or from hunger—it being impossible for us to furnish food—escaped with animals, some returning south, others pushing for our lines. I marched to La Grange on the 15th. We captured about 600 mules and horses. The weather being very warm, and the marches long and rapid, nearly 100 of our old horses were abandoned. The casualties are 2 men missing, one of them probably killed; 2 seriously wounded, and 5 horses killed.* My skirmishers punished the enemy severely. The command marched about 160 miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD HATCH,
Colonel Second Iowa Cavalry, Commanding Brigade.

Capt. WILLIAM H. MORGAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 2.

Report of Brig. Gen. James R. Chalmers, C. S. Army, commanding Military District, of skirmish (14*th*).

NEAR LOOXAHOMA, MISS.,
May 16, 1863.

After making a forced march Wednesday night (13th), I overtook Hatch's force, about 1,100 strong, at Temperance Hall; pursued him for 12 miles without being able to force a general engagement. Captured 12 of his men and some horses, and killed and wounded a few. At 2 o'clock next morning moved to Cockrum's Cross-Roads, where the Third and Ninth Illinois Cavalry, with two 12-pounder howitzers, were camped. They left before my arrival. I followed them across Coldwater in direction of Germantown, to within 8 miles of that place; captured 4 and killed and wounded about 20.

JAMES R. CHALMERS,
Brigadier-General.

General JOSEPH E. JOHNSTON, *Canton.*

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*List of casualties shows 2 men wounded and 2 missing.

MAY 12, 1863.—Engagement at Raymond, Miss.

REPORTS.*

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No. 17.—Col. H. B. Granbury, Seventh Texas Infantry.

No. 1.

Report of Maj. Gen. James B. McPherson, U. S. Army, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863.

GENERAL: We met the enemy, about 6,000 strong, commanded by Brigadier-General Gregg, at a point 2½ miles west of this place, where they were posted and fully prepared to receive us. After a sharp and severe contest of about three hours' duration, in which Major-General Logan's division was chiefly engaged, the enemy were driven back and retreated precipitately, passing out of this town on the Jackson road, Edwards Depot road, and Gallatin road.

The rough and impracticable nature of the country, filled with ravines and dense undergrowth, prevented anything like an effective use of artillery or a very rapid pursuit. Our loss has been pretty severe in General John E. Smith's and General Dennis' brigades, though I think 250 will cover the total killed, wounded, and missing. The loss of the enemy is fully as heavy, if not more so than ours. There are over 80 of their wounded in town, besides the number left on the battle-field and

*See also general reports of Grant and Pemberton, and McPherson's and Logan's reports of the battle of Port Gibson.

picked up by our men. We disabled two of the enemy's guns, one by bursting, which fell into our possession, and captured about 100 prisoners. We have to mourn the loss of Colonel Richards, of the Twentieth Illinois, who was killed while gallantly encouraging his men. Col. Ed. S. McCook, Thirty-first Illinois, was wounded in the foot. These, as far as I know, are the only casualties of the field officers. As soon as the returns are in, I will give you full particulars. Two rebel colonels are known to have been killed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAS. B. McPHERSON,
Major-General.

Maj. Gen. U. S. GRANT.

No. 2.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces engaged at Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863.

[Compiled from nominal lists of casualties, returns, &c.]

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.							
Maj. Gen. JAMES B. McPHERSON.							
Cavalry Battalion.							
Capt. JOHN S. FOSTER.							
2d Illinois Cavalry, Companies A and E*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4th Missouri Cavalry, Company F	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	2
Ohio Cavalry, (4th Company)*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Cavalry Battalion	.....	1	.....	1	.....	.....	2
THIRD DIVISION.							
Maj. Gen. JOHN A. LOGAN.							
First Brigade.							
Brig. Gen. JOHN E. SMITH.							
20th Illinois	3	14	4	64	.....	1	86
31st Illinois	.....	1	2	4	.....	.....	7
45th Illinois	.....	.....	2	14	.....	1	17
124th Illinois	.....	1	.....	9	.....	.....	10
23d Indiana	1	15	2	74	2	21	115
Total First Brigade	4	31	10	165	2	23	235
Second Brigade.							
Brig. Gen. ELIAS S. DENNIS.							
30th Illinois	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
20th Ohio	.....	10	2	56	.....	.....	68
68th Ohio	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	5
78th Ohio	.....	.....	.....	11	.....	.....	11
Total Second Brigade	.....	10	2	73	.....	.....	85

*No loss reported.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces engaged at Raymond, Miss., &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
Third Brigade.							
Brig. Gen. JOHN D. STEVENSON.							
8th Illinois	1	7	1	18	.....	.....	27
81st Illinois	.....	1	2	7	.....	5	15
7th Missouri	2	7	2	55	.....	7	73
32d Ohio*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Third Brigade	3	15	5	80	.....	12	115
Artillery.							
1st Illinois Light Artillery, Battery D*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Michigan Light Artillery, 8th Battery	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Ohio Light Artillery, 3d Battery*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Artillery	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1
Total Third Division	7	56	17	319	2	35	436
Seventh (Crocker's) Division†	.....	2	.....	2	.....	.....	4
Grand total	7	59	17	322	2	35	442

OFFICERS KILLED.—Illinois: Capt. Frank Leeper, Eighth Infantry, and Lieut. Col. Evan Richards, Capt. Victor H. Stevens, and Lieut. William S. Sears, Twentieth Infantry. Indiana: Lieut. Henry C. Deitz, Twenty-third Infantry. Missouri: Lieuts. John Lamb and John W. Barrett, Seventh Infantry.

No. 3.

Report of Brig. Gen. John E. Smith, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, Third Division, including operations May 1–June 4.

HDQRS. 1ST BRIGADE, 3D DIVISION, 17TH ARMY CORPS,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., June 23, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the First Brigade since the battle of Thompson's Hill, near Port Gibson, Miss., on the 1st of May, 1863 (a report of which I had the honor to transmit soon after), to June 4, 1863:

On the 2d day of May, about 10 a. m., I received orders from Major-General Grant to move out with my command and cross the south fork of Bayou Pierre, at the ford about 3½ miles east of Port Gibson, and gain the main road from Port Gibson to Vicksburg, which I accomplished about 2 p. m., halting near the residence of the rebel Col. B. G. Humphreys, Twenty-first Regiment Mississippi Volunteers. I found no enemy, but discovered in store about 7,000 or 8,000 pounds of bacon, which was secured and distributed to the troops. This proved a valuable acquisition to our limited supplies.

The division having crossed at Port Gibson, now, 5 p. m., moved up.

*No loss reported.

†Held mainly in reserve. The following-named regiments appear to have been the most actively employed: Forty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Indiana, Tenth Missouri, and Eightieth Ohio.

At this point I fell in with my command and moved with it. Bivouacked on the north fork of Bayou Pierre, near the Grindstone Ford. The suspension bridge at this place, which had been fired and nearly destroyed by the enemy, was promptly repaired, through the energy of the division commander, and made ready for the crossing of troops by 4 o'clock of the morning of the 3d, at which time, having the advance, I crossed with my command. We moved up the opposite slope by flank until we reached the residence of an intelligent planter, who assured us that there was no enemy in the vicinity, they having all passed the day before. I had not moved far before a field piece posted in a commanding position, and masked by the heavy woods which covered the summit of the hill, opened fire with shell. I immediately deployed into line on both sides of the road, throwing forward a heavy line of skirmishers. While in line, 3 men of the Twenty-third Indiana were wounded by a shell. Cavalry were at this time sent forward to reconnoiter. Receiving orders, I also moved forward in line to the summit of the hill, without any further resistance.

The cavalry returning, reported the enemy in full retreat. A halt was now ordered to rest the men, who were exhausted by the fatiguing march in line up a steep ascent, broken by deep ravines, and in many places through dense growths of cane. Having thrown out pickets while resting my command, brisk firing was heard on my left, in the direction of the post stationed on the road leading to the residence of Alfred Ingraham. I ascertained that our pickets were attacked, and immediately ordered the Thirty-first Illinois, Colonel McCook commanding, to their support, where they soon became sharply engaged. Being in heavy timber, it was impossible to estimate the number of the enemy, who were thought to be in force. As a precautionary measure, I ordered the Forty-fifth Illinois, Colonel Maltby, on the left, and the Twenty-third Indiana, Lieutenant-Colonel Davis, on the right, to the support of Colonel McCook, and, after a spirited skirmish, succeeded in dislodging the enemy, who hastily retreated on the Grand Gulf and Vicksburg road, leaving their dead on the field. Our casualties were 2 slightly wounded.

We halted for a short time near the residence of Professor Ingraham, where on the following day Major-General McClernand had his headquarters. In pursuance of orders from Major-General McPherson, I moved toward Grand Gulf, and reached the intersection of the main road from Grand Gulf to Vicksburg, where I received orders to join the division, moving toward Hankinson's Ferry, on the Big Black. I arrived there, after a fatiguing march of 19 miles, at 11 p. m.

Bivoucked near Hankinson's Ferry three days, giving the men ample time to rest and clean themselves, which they needed very much after the severe marches in the heat and dust, which at times was suffocating. Nearly one-third of the command at this time had no shoes, having worn them out on the march, and in consequence were very foot-sore. This, together with their want of supplies, which at times were very short, were subjects of pleasantries with the men, who consoled themselves with the prospect of a fight every other day to make amends for their privations.

In compliance with orders, when about 3 miles from Raymond, about 10 a. m. of the 12th, I formed in line on the right of the road, moving the Thirty-first Illinois by the flank to protect the right of the brigade, and throwing forward to the right and front a heavy line of skirmishers. The enemy's advance were discovered posted in a ravine, protected by the dense timber and undergrowth, and also by a branch of Fourteen-

Mile Creek—at times a considerable stream with steep banks—but now with only about 2½ feet of water, and affording an excellent cover for the enemy. With all these advantages of position in his favor, our skirmishers advanced steadily to the attack, the line also advancing as follows: The Twenty-third Indiana on the right, the Forty-fifth Illinois, the One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, and the Twentieth Illinois. The Thirty-first Illinois was still marching by the flank on the right through the woods. The Twenty-third Indiana, being in advance of the line, were suddenly attacked by the unseen foe.

Lieutenant-Colonel Davis, finding his command exposed without support, withdrew, and formed on the right of the Twentieth Illinois. The enemy, rushing forward, encountered the Forty-fifth Illinois, thinking they were alone, and attempted to cut them off, but Colonel McCook, of the Thirty-first, had, unperceived by the enemy, moved upon their flank, and opened fire upon them with such effect that they were driven from the right, and massed their forces in the center, evidently endeavoring to cut through, but here they were opposed by the Twentieth Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Richards commanding, on the left of the brigade, and the Twentieth Ohio, Colonel Force commanding, on the right of the Second, who maintained their positions under a galling fire nearly two hours.

Among the bravest of the brave who fell at this point was Lieut. Col. E. Richards, commanding the Twentieth Illinois. This regiment, their ammunition nearly expended, and one-third of their number killed and wounded, was relieved by the Eighth Illinois, who proved themselves worthy successors of the Twentieth Illinois.

The line from the Twentieth Ohio, on the right of the Second Brigade, to my right, now the Thirty-first Illinois, sustained the attack of the whole of the enemy's forces. The line was ordered forward and charged, which they did handsomely, completely routing the enemy, who fled precipitately through Raymond, leaving their dead and wounded on the field. General Gregg sent in a verbal request, under a flag of truce, for permission to carry off his wounded, which was not granted. I was now ordered to form column by regiments and move to Raymond as rapidly as possible. Arriving there, we were halted.

Too much praise cannot be awarded to the men and officers of the First Brigade, as well as the Twentieth Ohio, of the Second Brigade, and the Eighth Illinois, of the Third Brigade, who were under my observation, for their gallant conduct in this engagement.

Among the many brave men who were wounded, I regret the loss, temporarily, of Colonel McCook's valuable services, and trust that he will soon be able to resume his duties. Colonel Maltby, of the Forty-fifth Illinois, although so unwell that he was obliged to ride in an ambulance, as soon as the enemy was known to be in force to dispute advance, mounted his horse and assumed command of his regiment. Lieutenant-Colonel Davis, of the Twenty-third Indiana, handled his regiment admirably, seconded by his adjutant, Lieutenant Gleason.

To my staff, Captain [Wimer] Bedford, assistant adjutant-general; Captain [Milton H.] Lydick, Lieutenants [Syria M.] Budlong and [Joseph W.] Miller, I am much indebted for the efficient manner in which my orders were executed.

The casualties of this engagement have been already reported.

Bivouacked near Raymond. Moved with the division on the 13th, and bivouacked at Clinton.

On the 14th, moved with division on the Jackson road. The Seventh Division became engaged with the enemy near Jackson, and, in pursu-

ance of orders, I formed my brigade in column by regiments, ready to support it. They having repulsed the enemy, I was ordered forward on the Canton road, and had proceeded about 2 miles when the order was countermanded, and I went into a camp designated on the west side of the city.

On the 15th, moved with division toward Clinton.

On the 16th, moved with division, and, after marching about 3 miles, was ordered to form on the right of the road, to the right and rear of De Golyer's battery, in two lines, the Twenty-third Indiana, Twentieth Illinois, and Thirty-first Illinois in front, and the Forty-fifth and One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois in second line.

In pursuance of orders, moved forward to the right of the Second Brigade, and halted near a ravine about 300 yards from the crest of the hill. Two companies of skirmishers were deployed to the right, and ordered to take possession of the woods. The Forty-fifth and Twenty-third Indiana were ordered forward to support Rogers' battery, posted near the edge of the woods on the ridge. They advanced to the brow of the hill, and gained cover in a ravine in front of the enemy and on the right of the Second Brigade, where they did good service, and assisted materially in repulsing the attack of the enemy on the Second Brigade.

I then moved the Twentieth, Thirty-first, and One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois to the right, and, discovering the enemy in the ravine, I ordered a charge, which was promptly made by the last-named regiment, completely routing the enemy's left, who fled in the greatest disorder, leaving about 1,100 prisoners and a battery of six guns in our possession. The Forty-third Alabama and Thirty-first Georgia were captured nearly entire.

The center being hotly pressed, I moved my command up by the flank in double lines, and remained in position until the enemy were entirely routed on the right and center, when I was ordered to take a position on the road to Edwards Station.

Where all did so well it would be hard to discriminate; all was done that bravery could accomplish. My staff above named were efficient and cool in the hottest of the fight. Bivouacked near Baker's Creek.

On the 17th, moved with division, and bivouacked about 1 mile from Black River Bridge, and assisted in building a bridge across the Big Black River. Crossed the river at 1 p. m. on the Bridgeport and Vicksburg road. Was detained by General Sherman's command, which was in advance. Marched about 10 miles and bivouacked on the roadside.

On the 19th, moved with division in the direction of Vicksburg, and arrived within 2 miles about 11 a. m., where we were halted and ordered to form in two lines on the left of the road, in a deep ravine. We remained here a short time, then advanced and took possession of the road in our front, keeping skirmishers thrown well in our front. Our next position was across the road to the right of our first position, moving by the flank, to avoid a deep ravine, that was impassable. Our skirmishers still advancing, gained the white house in front of Fort Hill. I was, however, ordered to close the line on General Ransom's left, and follow his command to the next ridge above the white house, our skirmishers still driving the enemy, who finally retired behind their intrenchments. Here I remained until the morning of the 20th, when I received orders to move to the left and occupy the grounds around the white house in front of Fort Hill. The skirmishers did excellent service by keeping the rebel guns silenced, and keeping down their sharpshooters. Our guns were brought forward within 300 yards of the rebel works,

and Captain De Golyer, by his daring and intrepidity, put one of his guns in position within 150 yards.

Lieut. H. C. Foster, Twenty-third Indiana, in command of the skirmishers, was untiring during the siege. Both by day and night he was at his post, and many of the rebels are indebted to him for their final account.

At 10 a. m. of the 22d a general assault was ordered. In compliance with this order to move in quick time with fixed bayonets, and not to fire until the enemy's works were reached, at 10.15 a. m., as soon as the batteries had ceased firing, I ordered the Twenty-third Indiana and Twentieth Illinois to move down, under cover of the wood, by the flank, and, when the salient of Fort Hill was reached, to file to the right, under the dead space of the parapet, this seeming to be the most practicable way of reaching the rifle-pits. But the Twenty-third, after filing off the length of the regiment, found it impossible to proceed, owing to the nature of the ground. A deep ravine was revealed in their front, covered with a heavy abatis, and in which they were exposed to a galling fire, which they were not permitted to return. They sheltered themselves by the inequalities of the ground, and were ordered to retire by companies.

Finding this way impossible, the Twentieth was ordered to proceed on the road and gain the curtain of the left salient on our front, supported by the Forty-fifth Illinois in reserve. This point was gained under a heavy fire from the enemy, but the ditch and parapet was too high, and the effort was ineffectual. The Twentieth Illinois was ordered to get under cover of a ridge on the opposite side of the road and wait for further orders. In the mean time the assault had failed, not for want of support but the impossibility of getting over the obstructions on the right of Fort Hill, and the ditch and parapet in front on the road being too high, which would have kept the men so long under fire that they would have inevitably been sacrificed without accomplishing the object. About 2 p. m. the same day, in pursuance of orders from division headquarters, I made a second attempt to assault the enemy's works from the front, on the main road. Although there is not a regiment in the brigade that I have not the fullest confidence in, yet as the Forty-fifth Illinois had not been under fire, and knowing that they would go wherever I ordered and where it was possible to go (their conduct since is ample testimony), I ordered them in advance, to be immediately supported by Colonel Force, Twentieth Ohio, of the Second Brigade, who was assigned to me for that duty (under the previous instructions, to move forward with fixed bayonets, and not fire until they had gained the enemy's works). The order was given to advance, and they were soon exposed to the fire of the whole of the rebel line, killing and wounding many at the head of the column (among them Maj. L. H. Cowen, who was in command of the regiment), when they filed off under cover of the ridge occupied by the Twentieth Illinois. The Twentieth Ohio was not ordered forward, as I became satisfied that the obstacles could not be overcome without sacrificing probably my whole command. It was here Captain Bedford, my assistant adjutant-general, was severely wounded by my side while assisting me in the discharge of my duties. The Twentieth and Forty-fifth Illinois remained in their position on the opposite side of the road, in front of the principal curtain of the fort, twenty-four hours, when they were withdrawn. Since then a regular system of approaches has been commenced. The command has been constantly on duty, when not in the rifle-pits, throwing up works to be used for attack or defense, as occasion might require.

The casualties of this brigade on the 22d were 8 killed and 82 wounded, which has already been reported. Since and up to the 14th instant, the Twenty-third Indiana has lost 1 killed and 7 wounded; the Twentieth Illinois, ———; the Thirty-first Illinois, 1 killed and 4 wounded; the Forty-fifth Illinois, 1 killed and 1 wounded; and the One hundred and twenty-fourth Illinois, 1 killed and 2 wounded.

The patient endurance of the men while on the march, their undaunted courage in battle, the unflinching steadiness and unwavering determination exhibited by them when under the fire of the enemy, cannot be too highly commended. The patriotic spirit evinced by them in all their actions clearly demonstrates their faith in the justice of their cause, and renders them fearless and invincible.

The Federal Union should congratulate herself that she has in the field men who, in many hard-fought battles, have proved themselves as soldiers unsurpassed in intelligence and heroic bravery, men who hold their lives as nothing in comparison to the preservation of the Union and the maintenance of the supremacy of the American Constitution over the entire land. An army composed of such material, imbued with the spirit of justice and liberty, must and will be victorious.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN E. SMITH,

Brig. Gen., Comdg. 1st Brigade, 3d Division, 17th Army Corps.

Maj. R. R. TOWNES, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 4.

Report of Lieut. Col. William P. Davis, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry, including operations to June 4.

IN REAR OF VICKSBURG, MISS., *June* 4, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers in the battles of Raymond, Champion's Hill, Jackson, and Vicksburg, up to the present date:

BATTLE OF RAYMOND.

At 11 o'clock a. m. of May 12, the Twenty-third Regiment Indiana Volunteers was ordered to take position upon the right of the main road, on the right of the brigade. Having taken this position, we moved forward in line of battle, across open fields, to the edge of some timber, distant about half a mile. The regiment was here halted for a few moments, and was then ordered to move by the right flank into the timber, my left resting on the edge of the field. This position being taken, it was then moved forward in line of battle, Company G being thrown out as skirmishers in front and upon the right flank, with instructions to keep constantly in sight of the regiment. I reached a creek, which was almost impassable, the banks being nearly perpendicular, and covered with dense undergrowth. With much difficulty the regiment crossed it and moved forward a short distance. I halted about 50 yards from the base of a hill in my front, when, not seeing the balance of the line upon my left, I immediately sent to ascertain its position.

At this time I received your order for the skirmishers to be thrown farther to the right. While this was being executed, we were attacked upon our right and front by the enemy in column, consisting of four

lines. Owing to the denseness of the thicket, our skirmishers were advanced but a short distance before the enemy was upon them, advancing rapidly down the hill in our front. They opened fire from each line in succession, and at the same time that portion on our right fired a volley and charged. Upon our first discovery of them, we opened fire and continued until they were within bayonet reach. Not having time to fix our bayonets, we attempted to beat them back with our muskets, but, being overpowered by numbers, we were obliged to fall back, which we did in good order, to the creek. Here the same difficulty occurred as before in crossing. Upon regaining the opposite bank, and finding it difficult to form my line, I moved out of the woods and formed on the Twentieth Illinois Regiment, which was occupying a position in the edge of the field, and upon which we had previously formed our line. We remained in this position, sustaining a heavy fire, for about one and a half hours, when the enemy began to fall back.

At this time a portion of the Third Brigade took position on our right and charged, we joining them in it, the enemy hastily leaving the field. Soon after, and while the enemy were retreating on the right-hand road, a section of Rogers' battery was ordered forward to fire upon them. The regiment was then ordered to a position in a skirt of timber on the left of and to support the artillery, and resting upon the left-hand road. The brigade being shortly afterward formed into column by regiments, my command took its proper position and marched into Raymond, where it camped for the night."

BATTLE OF JACKSON.

At about 9 a. m. May 14, we reached the scene of action, which was about 3 miles from Jackson, upon the Vicksburg and Jackson road. Soon after our arrival, the brigade was formed into column by regiments, the Twenty-third Indiana being on the right, in rear of and acting as a support to the Seventh Division. The enemy having been routed by the Seventh Division, we were ordered in pursuit upon the Canton road, but had only proceeded a short distance when the order was countermanded, and we bivouacked at 8 p. m. near the Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

BATTLE OF CHAMPION'S HILL.

About 12 m. May 16, I received your order to move to the right of the main road, and take a position about a quarter of a mile distant in open ground, the remaining regiments of the brigade forming column in my rear. As soon as they obtained their positions, we moved forward a short distance and were halted. I then threw out as skirmishers my right company. As soon as they were in position, I received your order to move forward by change of direction to the right, one fourth wheel, then forward. Passing through a hollow, we were halted on the side of an opposite hill, in order to fix bayonets. I soon received orders to advance my regiment and take position on the right of the Forty-fifth Illinois Regiment, which was supporting Captain Rogers' battery, which was posted upon the brow of the hill. This position being greatly exposed, we moved forward over the hill into timber, descending into a ravine and to the brow of a hill opposite, about 400 yards distant. Here we found the enemy in force, and evidently preparing to advance. We immediately opened fire upon him, and kept it up for nearly two hours, when he commenced falling back. We were immediately ordered forward over this hill, across a ravine, and to the top of another rise in our front. Here we remained, keeping up a con-

stant fire for about an hour, when the enemy retreated from the field in confusion, and soon afterward, by your order, I moved a short distance to the left and took my position in the brigade, which was formed in double lines. After resting here a short time, the brigade was ordered forward upon the main road, arriving at a point near Baker's Creek. About 3½ miles from Edwards Station we bivouacked for the night.

SIEGE OF VICKSBURG.

I arrived in the vicinity of the enemy's works at 8 o'clock on the morning of May 19, and was at once ordered to take position in an open field on the left of the main Vicksburg road. As soon as we had gotten this position, we were ordered forward across the field through a deep ravine, and to the top of a ridge upon the opposite side, here striking the main road again, which at this point had made a sharp turn to the left. Here we were halted, and we remained in line till 2 p. m., when, by your order, I moved forward over an open field, and to the edge of a canebrake, halting a moment at this place to enable other regiments to take their positions; then forward across another field and through a deep ravine to the brow of a timbered ridge, distant from the main road about one-quarter of a mile; then to the right along this ridge, descending into a deep ravine, over this ravine and to the top of an abrupt hill, into the edge of another field. We moved over this field to the right, and were halted in some timber on a ridge in front of one of the enemy's forts, about 300 yards distant, and one-half mile from the main road at the point we occupied in the forenoon. While crossing over the last field, we were under a severe fire from the enemy's batteries. We remained at this place till the afternoon of the 20th, when, by your order, we moved to the left, passing along under the brow of a ridge which ran nearly parallel to the enemy's works, arriving upon the main road running to the city, and near the white house. We remained here until 10 o'clock on the morning of the 22d, when we received your order to move forward, joining in a charge upon the enemy's works, which lay upon the Vicksburg road and about 300 yards from us, my regiment being ordered to move forward by the right flank on the road until within about 100 yards of the works, then file right, and move in this direction till my left was clear of the road. Filing to the right, we were obliged to pass over a ridge of ground which brought us in full view of the enemy's rifle-pits, from which a murderous fire was opened upon us, killing and wounding 11, among them the commanding officer of the right company.

Finding it impossible to get my position by this direction, I moved the regiment rapidly by the right flank a short distance, and obtained shelter from the enemy's fire in a shallow ravine, which ran parallel to the road. We moved along in this ravine till our right became again exposed to the fire from the rifle-pits, and also to a fire from a battery which was posted upon our right, when I halted the regiment and immediately informed you of our position, and soon after received your order to withdraw by company, it being extremely hazardous to return in regular order of regiment. Upon the companies coming out, they formed in line, and, as soon as the regiment was formed, I was ordered to stack arms upon the left of the road and to await further orders. About 5 p. m., by your order, I again moved down the road, and after having passed about the length of the regiment beyond where we filed to the right in the morning, was halted, and in a short time I was ordered to return to my former position upon the roadside, where I

staid till the 27th, when we moved a short distance back upon the right of the road to a position which we still occupy.

During these engagements both officers and men have behaved with their usual bravery and coolness. To Maj. H. C. Ferguson, Capt. George S. Babbitt, and Lieut. Jesse T. Gleason, acting adjutant, I am especially indebted for their promptness in the execution of all orders. Sergt. Maj. David G. McCann has shown himself worthy the position he now holds. I cannot let the opportunity pass without speaking of the admirable manner in which Sergt. George H. Goad, Company H, commanding; Sergt. Francis M. Tubbs, Company G, commanding, and Corpl. William Mix, Company E, commanding, handled their respective companies at Champion's Hill. They proved themselves equal to the emergencies. Company I, Capt. B. F. Walter commanding, and Company E, Lieut. Henry C. Foster (Company B) commanding, were deployed as skirmishers the day (19th) of our arrival here (Vicksburg), and are now (this being the sixteenth day) occupying a position about 75 yards from the enemy's principal fort near the white house. These companies deserve special praise and mention for their daring bravery and incalculable services in driving the enemy from this point and silencing the guns within the fort.

I respectfully refer you to reports already submitted of casualties to May 23, inclusive. Inclosed find list from that date to June 4, inclusive.

[WILLIAM P. DAVIS,
Lieutenant-Colonel.]

Lieut. S. M. BUDLONG, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 5.

Report of Col. Manning F. Force, Twentieth Ohio Infantry, Second Brigade.

——— —, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report that, on the morning of the 12th of May, the Twentieth Ohio marched as advance guard of the division, on the right side of the road to Raymond, with four companies (first, second, third, and fifth) deployed in front as skirmishers till the deployed line reached the edge of the timber bordering the Fourteen-Mile Creek; there the column was halted, the rebel battery on a hill beyond the creek throwing shell over the timber into the open field. I brought up the reserves upon the deployed line for shelter. The First Brigade afterward marched over the field to the shelter of the woods, and rested upon and mingled with my skirmishers.

While in this situation, I received orders to forward, and immediately a hot fire, with hurrahs, was heard in front. All the companies but the first and second quickly formed in line, advanced to a deep gully, and took position there. The second company (F, Capt. Harrison Wilson) assembled the skirmishers, formed, and marched by the flank under a very severe fire to its position in line, as quickly as if on parade. Company A, Lieutenant Weatherby commanding, was so separated by the intervening brigade that it was impossible for it to form with the regiment. Lieutenant Weatherby reported to Colonel Dollins, commanding Eighty-first Illinois, and fought under him. Colonel Dollins gives emphatic report of the good conduct of this company.

The fire was very hot and close. Private [Levi] Donaldson, of F, had his leg shattered by a rifle held within a foot of it. The enemy's fire being silenced in about an hour, I advanced out of the gully across an

almost impenetrable tangle of logs and brush, a run waist-deep in some places, and a plowed field, up the hill where the enemy's guns had been placed, and there halted and reported. I advanced with the brigade to Raymond in the evening, and marched the regiment out on picket.

The Seventh Texas, which boasts that it never before gave way, was lying in ambush when the Twentieth Ohio first marched into the woods. With all its advantage of position, this regiment was slaughtered and driven. Twenty-three dead were found in half an acre in front of the line of the Twentieth; 7 dead were found behind a log, which was pierced by seventy-two balls. One tree in front of my line was stripped and hacked near the root by balls, though not a mark was found more than 2 feet above the ground.

I cannot speak too highly of the behavior of officers and men. Notwithstanding the suddenness of the attack, the severity of the fire, and the necessity of maneuvering to form line, I did not see a mistake or any hesitation, nor enough excitement to interfere with immediate obedience to every command. If admirable performance of duty under trying circumstances entitles one to honorable mention, every officer and man should be honorably mentioned. I can name Capt. Abraham Kaga, acting as field officer (two field officers being detached on staff duty), and First Lieut. J. B. Walker, acting adjutant, for their very efficient assistance; Capt. Harrison Wilson, for the excellent manner in which he assembled his skirmishers without confusion under fire and in the midst of a retreating regiment and marched them to position in line; Private John Canavan, of Company E, who in part led the company, when, by the wounding of Second Lieut. John Stevenson and death of First Sergeant [Byron] Selby, the company was left in command of the fifth sergeant ([Osborn H.] Oldroyd), lately appointed; Corporal [William H.] Borum (B), who insisted upon remaining in the ranks with a ball lodged in his throat, and Private ———, of D, who returned from the hospital after his wounds were dressed, to carry water for the men.

I think it proper also to mention hospital attendant Lawrence Greenman, of Company D, for persistent zeal in performance of his duties under fire. Private [Jacob] Cauter, of Company A, seeing a good opportunity for a shot after the regiment with which that company was serving was ordered to cease firing, asked permission; Lieutenant Weatherby, walking the length of the regiment, obtained permission, and Cauter fired his shot, the only one fired by the company until order was given to resume.

A list of casualties is appended.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. F. FORCE,
Colonel, Commanding Twentieth Ohio.

Lieut. J. C. DOUGLASS,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 6.

Report of Brig. Gen. John D. Stevenson, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, including operations May 4–July 4.

VICKSBURG, MISS., *July* 7, 1863.

MAJOR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Third Brigade in the series of engagements with the enemy from the 4th of May until the final termination of the siege of Vicksburg

on the 4th instant, referring you to my report up to the 4th of May, at which date we were encamped near Hankinson's Ferry, on the Big Black River. We continued in that position until the 9th, when, receiving orders to march, the command broke camp and moved in the direction of Raymond, Miss.

On the morning of the 12th of May, the division being on the march, the Third Brigade being in the rear of the column, I received orders to move forward with all possible dispatch, as the enemy were in force in our immediate front. I caused the command to move with alacrity, coming up to the crest of a hill in full view of the field, where, by order of Major-General McPherson, I deployed the command in double lines as a reserve, the Seventh Missouri, Eighty-first Illinois, and Thirty-second Ohio being present, the Eighth Illinois being detailed as rear guard. I immediately ordered up the Eighth Illinois to the front. The enemy making determined resistance to our advancing lines, and indicating a disposition to flank our right, I was ordered to take position on the right of our line, to check the movement of the enemy. Whilst engaged in executing the command, I received orders from Major-General Logan to send one regiment of my command to take position on the right of the First Brigade. I immediately ordered the Eighty-first Illinois to take position. Soon afterward I received a second order from Major-General Logan to send to the extreme left another regiment of my command, as the enemy were pressing at that point in force and with great determination. The Eighth Illinois Regiment, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess, having arrived on the ground, was immediately sent to the point indicated. I then ordered the Seventh Missouri, under Major Wakefield, to take position on the right of the Eighty-first Illinois. I held the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers, under Col. B. F. Potts, in its original position on the extreme right. Each of these movements was made with skirmishers properly deployed.

On the extreme right, where I was in person, the enemy made a demonstration as if for a flank movement, with a heavy line of skirmishers, which was soon driven back by the skirmishers in front of the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers. In the mean time the fight raged with great fierceness on the left and center. The Eighth Illinois Volunteers, gallantly led by Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess, charged the advancing line of the enemy with its usual impetuosity, and at the point of the bayonet dislodged them from a strong position from which they had poured a most destructive fire upon our lines.

Soon the whole line advanced, and the enemy was driven from the position. In this advance the Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers, under command of Col. J. J. Dollins, behaved with signal valor.

The Seventh Missouri Volunteers, under command of Major Wakefield, failing to unite with the Eighty-first Illinois on the left, advanced through a dense thicket to an open field in front. The regiment, being at the base of a hill held by the enemy, resolutely advanced to take possession of the hill, and, whilst under a most terrific fire, was ordered by the commanding officer to retreat, and retired in great disorder and with heavy loss, the enemy in their front consisting of at least three regiments. Learning that the regiment had broken, I immediately proceeded to that part of the field, rallied the regiment, the enemy falling in and forming a new line.

Captain Wiles, of the pioneer corps, having come upon the field with his gallant company, and desiring to share the work and dangers of the field, I placed him with his command on the left of the Seventh Missouri. At this time Major-General McPherson, having strengthened

the right with two regiments of General Crocker's division, under Colonel Holmes, of the Tenth Missouri Volunteers, I advanced the entire line on the right, the enemy retiring rapidly before the advancing lines. I pushed my advance until we were in possession of the town of Raymond, the enemy being in full retreat by different roads in the direction of Jackson. I regret to report that our casualties in this battle were large, embracing in the number Capt. Frank Leeper, Eighth Illinois Volunteers, who was mortally wounded in the front of his command in their gallant and successful charge.

On the night of the 12th, we bivouacked in the outskirts of the town of Raymond, and early next morning moved toward Jackson, by way of Clinton, bivouacking for the night at Clinton, amidst a violent storm. Early in the morning, in a continuous and heavy rain, we moved toward Jackson, making a moist, toilsome march through mud and rain, [arriving] at 10 o'clock near the city of Jackson. The division of General Crocker, being in advance, encountered the enemy in force. We were ordered up to the support of the advance, but arrived only in time to witness the brilliant and successful charge of the Seventh Division, driving the enemy in dismay from the field.

In the advance upon Jackson, we held the extreme left of the line, and after a toilsome march over a country cut up by creeks and ravines and covered with thick brush, we approached the city, and finding the enemy had retired toward Canton, again bivouacked for the night.

On the morning of the 15th, I moved my command in the advance toward Bolton, making a march of 22 miles, bivouacking for the night at that place, and coming up with the command of Brigadier-General Hovey, of Thirteenth Army Corps, encamped at that point.

On the morning of the 16th, moved in direction of Vicksburg, General Hovey's division having the advance. After a march of a few miles, I was advised of the presence of the enemy in our front in large force. At this time I could distinctly hear the firing of skirmishers in the front. I received an order from Major-General Logan to advance with my brigade, consisting at the time of the Eighth Illinois Volunteers, Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers, and Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers (the Seventh Missouri being rear guard), and take position in the rear of De Golyer's battery as a reserve, which position I immediately occupied, holding my brigade massed in column of battalions.

On the extreme left, General Hovey's division was in line, and on the right and center the brigades of Generals Smith and Leggett. Soon after I arrived on the field the engagement became general, our entire line advancing and attacking the enemy with great fierceness.

As the line advanced, I was ordered to move my command to the right, and deploy my column so as to let my left rest on the right of General Smith's brigade. I occupied this under cover of a skirt of timber, deploying a heavy line of skirmishers, covering my entire front and extending considerably beyond my right flank. My line being formed, the Eighth Illinois, Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess commanding, on my left, the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers, Col. B. F. Potts commanding, in the center, and the Eighty-first Illinois, Col. J. J. Dollins commanding, on the right, my skirmishers, under command of Col. H. Lieb, Ninth Louisiana Volunteers, acting volunteer aide, were immediately advanced to the front, and the whole line rapidly pushed forward. Passing through the timber, I found myself at the base of a considerable hill, in possession of the enemy, and upon which they had a battery planted. As our line advanced, we received several discharges of grape and shell, but steadily pushed to the front.

The battery of the enemy was taken at the point of the bayonet by the Eighth Illinois and the left wing of the Thirty-second Ohio Volunteers. The supports of the battery were soon driven from the field. Finding that I was upon the enemy's left flank and had completely outflanked them, I pressed my whole command upon them, gaining possession of the only road and the bridge of Baker's Creek, and capturing a number of prisoners, together with several abandoned caissons and guns. Continuing my advance with vigor, I was peremptorily ordered by Major-General McPherson to fall back with my command and form a new line, in conjunction with Brigadier-General Smith, the reason alleged being that the enemy were driving back our left. I immediately ordered the several regiments to fall back to the point designated, still holding possession of the road and bridge. While organizing the new line, we were subjected to a heavy fire from the batteries of the enemy, but without any material effect upon the command, every officer and man remaining at his post. At this time I could see large bodies of the enemy moving across my front, out of range, to the support of the attack on our left. I sent twice for a battery to the commanding general, but, failing to get it, was powerless to impede their advance. I then received an order from Major-General McPherson to send to the support of the left one of my regiments. I immediately detached the Thirty-second Ohio, under Colonel Potts, they moving off under the direction of a staff officer of General McPherson, leaving of my command two regiments. Shortly afterward I was ordered to move my entire command to the left, which I did, and, being halted in rear of our batteries, availed myself of this opportunity to refill the cartridge-boxes of the command. At this point the Seventh Missouri, under command of Capt. Robert Buchanan, reported on the field.

The enemy being repulsed on the whole line, I was ordered by General McPherson to occupy my old ground and press the enemy. I immediately moved the command to the point from which I had been recalled, and, finding the enemy in the timber in my front, I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess, with the Eighth Illinois Volunteers, to charge the woods, which was immediately done, resulting in the capture of one gun, a rifled piece, and about 500 infantry. Leaving the Eighth Illinois Volunteers, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess, I proceeded along the road in the direction of Vicksburg with the battery of Captain De Golyer, which had been sent to my front, and the Seventh Missouri Volunteers and Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers as a support, and vigorously shelled the flying enemy for a distance of several miles, breaking their columns and dispersing them in great disorder through the woods, and capturing many prisoners. Night alone put an end to the pursuit of the enemy.

This was unquestionably the great battle of the campaign, and I am proud that the officers and soldiers of the command conducted themselves throughout the entire day with the utmost valor and determination, bivouacking some 3 miles from the battle-field.

On the next day we marched to Big Black River, and at this point the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteers, commanded by Maj. Frank F. Peats, reported for duty. We were detained here until the next morning, bridges having been erected during the night. We then moved in the direction of Vicksburg, bivouacking for the night within 2 miles of the enemy's works.

On the 19th, we advanced upon the works of the enemy, driving in their skirmishers and pressing our lines close to the works of the enemy, at night occupying the ground gained during the day.

On the 20th, we had driven the enemy within their lines, and had gained positions for our batteries.

On the 21st, we strengthened our positions, and steadily advanced our skirmish lines until they were within 100 yards of the works of the enemy.

On the 22d of May, Major-General Grant having ordered a charge on the enemy's works of the entire line to be made at 10 a. m., the attack to be made with loaded muskets and fixed bayonets, no shot to be fired until a foothold was obtained in the works of the enemy, I moved the Third Brigade, consisting of the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteers, commanded by Maj. Frank F. Peats; Eighth Illinois Volunteers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess; Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers, under Col. J. J. Dollins; Thirty-second Ohio, under Col. B. F. Potts, and the Seventh Missouri Volunteers, under Capt. Robert Buchanan, to a point within 200 yards of the strongest work of the enemy, known as Fort Hill, under cover of a hill, forming the command in the ravine. Having been furnished with scaling ladders, I [divided] my command into two separate columns, the left column consisting of the Eighth Illinois and Thirty-second Ohio Regiments, and the right column consisting of the Seventh Missouri and Eighty-first Illinois, the Seventeenth Illinois, under Major Peats, in conjunction with the regular skirmish line, under Col. H. Lieb, being deployed on the crest of the hill, as near the works of the enemy as possible, to cover the advancing columns, the scaling-ladders being distributed between the two columns.

At 10 a. m. precisely, the order to advance was given. The right column, led by Captain Buchanan, advancing up the hill, soon came under the fire of the enemy. Volley after volley was poured upon them, deviating the head of the column to the left, but not stopping the steady advance, until the head of the column rested upon the ditch of the work. The left column, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Sturgess, steadily advanced under a heavy fire until it reached a point near the works of the enemy, when I ordered it to halt and form a reserve, to support the right column, now resting upon the edge of the ditch. I then ordered Captain Buchanan to form his regiment in line as rapidly as possible, and Colonel Dollins to extend his regiment in line on the left of the Seventh Missouri. This evolution we performed under a very destructive fire of both small-arms and field pieces, involving the loss of a large number of men. Finding the fire of the enemy so destructive, I ordered the men to lie down until the fire of the enemy would slacken, our batteries having opened upon the enemy. After lying down some time, the fire of the enemy having almost ceased, I ordered the command up and forward, which was done with loud cheers and great vigor. The enemy relieved their ramparts with infantry, and opened with grape and canister, literally sweeping down officers and men. The men advanced to the edge of the ditch, the Seventh Missouri getting into the ditch with their ladders (which were found unserviceable), and planted their colors in the ditch. In the mean time the fire of the enemy killing and wounding two-thirds of the officers, including Colonel Dollins, Eighty-first Illinois, and many of the men, the regiment fell back in much confusion. Finding the Seventh Missouri had sustained equally as heavy loss, and, from the strength of the work, that it was not possible to make a successful assault in the face of the work, I ordered the officers of the Seventh Missouri and Eighty-first Illinois to retire with the remnants of their commands to the rear and reform them. The rest of the command continued to hold the position gained until finally ordered to their camps at nightfall.

This assault, though unsuccessful, demonstrated that the command possessed the most reliable characteristics of soldiers, implicit obedience to orders, undaunted courage, and great endurance. Not a gun was fired during the entire assault, although the most earnest appeals were made to the commanding general to do so, and when at length the command was ordered to retire, the men did so under the control and direction of their officers. I regret to record the death of many brave officers and men; among the number, Col. J. J. Dollins, Major Ward, and Adjutant Hammack, of the Eighty-first Illinois Volunteers. They are as brave and gallant soldiers as any the country has been called upon to mourn.

Many instances of valor occurred during the assault. Among others I mention the numerous color-bearers of the Seventh Missouri Volunteers. Six successive times were the bearers of the Irish flag shot down—of the number, a Private Kelley, of the Eighty-first Illinois, being one. Seeing the flag go down, he instantly raised it to its place, to be himself instantly shot down.

Two commissioned officers of the Seventh Missouri deserve special mention in connection with the flag. Lieut. Robert Porter, who was the sixth flag-bearer, holding and waving the flag aloft, soon fell with a severe wound. Immediately Lieut. Joshua W. Bourne seized the flag, held it in its position, and finally bore it from the field.

The other regiments of the command constituting the left column were all the time exposed to a severe fire, involving a heavy loss, but remained firmly in their position until ordered off the field.

The Seventeenth Illinois Volunteers and their officers are entitled to special mention for the prompt manner in which they occupied the ground assigned them, and the efficient services rendered in protecting their comrades in the advances and especially for the hot fire poured into the enemy as the column retired.

I regret to say my losses in this assault aggregate, killed and wounded, 272 officers and men.

From the assault of the 22d of May until the final termination of the siege, the Third Brigade did its full share of all the work in the approaches to and mining of the enemy's works, and on its entire front. From the time of the assault, so well did each regiment do its duty the entire length of the picket line, that no rebel dare show himself outside the works or carelessly expose his person within, unless he subjected himself to a fire that caused his instant disappearance. I do but simple justice to the Third Brigade when I, with just pride, claim for them the highest qualities that mark the true soldier, evinced by their long and arduous marches, upon short rations, without tents or shelter, in the face of the enemy, with repeated battles, continuous victories, and finally the culmination of the great campaign in the possession of the enemy's vaunted impregnable stronghold. During the entire campaign I have been much indebted to the officers of my staff—Captain Whitehead, adjutant-general, and Lieutenants Callsen and Reynolds, of the Seventeenth Illinois Volunteers. To each of these officers the thanks of the country are due for fearless personal exposure on our many battle-fields, and untiring zeal in the discharge of their many duties. To Col. H. Lieb, Ninth Louisiana Volunteers (African descent), I am specially indebted as volunteer aide. I placed him at the commencement of the campaign in charge of my skirmishers, and well and ably on every occasion did he discharge his trust. No officer, in my judgment, excelled him in untiring zeal and unflinching courage. I recommend him to the special notice of the general commanding.

I herewith submit the report of my subordinate officers, with accurate lists of the casualties attending the campaign.

Respectfully,

JOHN D. STEVENSON,
Brig. Gen., Comdg. Third Brig., Third Div., Seventeenth Army Corps.

Maj. R. R. TOWNES,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 7.

Report of Lieut. Col. Franklin Campbell, Eighty-first Illinois Infantry, including operations to July 4.

HDQRS. EIGHTY-FIRST REGIMENT ILLINOIS VOLUNTEERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., July 9, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with your order directed to me, dated July 7, 1863, I have the honor to report that on May 12 we met the enemy in a ravine, about 1 mile south of Raymond. The Third Brigade was thrown out on the right and formed in line of battle, the Eighty-first Regiment being placed on the left of the brigade, and in this position we marched forward through almost impenetrable brushwood and undergrowth. We met the enemy in the bottom of the ravine and drove them, after a short and spirited fight of thirty minutes. The enemy retreated and reformed on the top of the hill in an open field, being protected from our right partly by the intervening timber. My command was marched by the right flank until it came to the opening on the right, where the enemy was discovered to them. Here a sharp fight took place, which lasted some fifty or sixty minutes, and resulted in driving the enemy from the hill, and then commenced the final retreat. My command then marched forward in connection with the remainder of the brigade on the open ground and through the brushwood to the town of Raymond, where we encamped for the night. The utmost coolness and determined bravery was displayed on the occasion of this battle by the men and officers of this regiment, there being but one instance of objectionable conduct—that of Capt. Samuel Pyle, who has since been permitted to resign.

On May 14, after severe marching, our army met the enemy at Jackson, our brigade being deployed in line of battle on the left. My command marched in this position for several miles through mud and rain and almost impenetrable thickets until we came to the town of Jackson. We did not meet the enemy, he having left the field in time to evade our pursuit. We encamped with the remainder of the brigade in the suburbs of the town.

On May 16, we again met the enemy at Champion's Hill, or Baker's Creek, our regiment being on the right of the brigade. In this position we marched through fields and over ditches, fences, through woods, until we met the enemy, under the protection of their batteries, and, while the Eighth Illinois and Thirty-second Ohio charged and took a battery, my command charged another battery still farther to the right, and drove it, together with a strong support not less than double our number. After about an hour's hard fighting, we drove them from the field. We were then ordered to fall back. Our skirmishers, with an additional squad of men under the command of Lieutenant Grammer, Company B, brought the batteries taken by our brigade off the field, but were again put in line of battle and pursued the retreating enemy.

On May 19, we marched in front of the enemy's works at Vicksburg, and were ordered to support the Third Ohio Battery, which we did under a galling fire of grape, shell, and canister from the enemy.

On the morning of the 20th, we took position near the enemy's works and in support of Bolton's battery.

On May 22, we were ordered to support the Seventh Missouri in an assault upon the enemy's works, which order was partly executed by deploying into line of battle in shot-range of the enemy's guns, and within full view of the enemy behind his intrenchments. At the order to charge, our regiment did support the gallant old Seventh Missouri until the fire became too galling to bear. Colonel Dollins, then in command, gave the order to about-face and march around a point under the protection of the hill. My command came off the field in good order, and was marched into camp, where it reformed and marched back to the field of battle, and there remained until night as a reserve force.

Since May 22, my command has been continually occupied in the various and arduous duties connected with the siege, participating in all the dangers and labors, being the whole time under the fire of the enemy's batteries and sharpshooters. The alacrity and zeal with which both officers and men of my command have ever been ready and willing to perform their duties cannot be too highly commended, and it would be almost invidious to discriminate between the actions of either men or officers in the zealous performance of duty during the late campaign, with the exception of the case previously mentioned.

F. CAMPBELL,
Colonel, Commanding.

Brig. Gen. JOHN D. STEVENSON,
Comdg. Third Brig., Third Div., Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 8.

Report of Brig. Gen. Marcellus M. Crocker, U. S. Army, commanding Seventh Division, including operations May 2–17.

HDQRS. SEVENTH DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to report the part taken by the Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, on the march and in the battles occurring from the time I assumed temporary command of it at Port Gibson on May 2, until relieved by Brigadier-General Quinby on the 17th instant.

I assumed the command of the division at Port Gibson at noon of May 2, and that afternoon had the advance of the army corps, and marched to the north branch of Bayou Pierre, on the road to Vicksburg. On arriving at the bayou, we found that the bridge had been burned by the retreating enemy. During the night the bridge was repaired so that the corps could cross, and the next morning the division crossed, following the division of Major-General Logan to Willow Springs, at which point the division of General Logan was directed to take a road to the left of the main road, the Seventh Division proceeding on the main road toward Hankinson's Ferry, on the Big Black River. After proceeding a short distance, we encountered the enemy's pickets, and soon discovered the enemy, with a battery posted in the woods and hills across a small creek. A regiment, the Fifty-ninth Indiana, commanded by Colonel Alexander, was deployed as skirmishers, and the

two other regiments belonging to the same brigade, Colonel Sanborn's, were formed in line of battle. A 10-pounder Parrott gun, under direction of Captain [Frank C.] Sands, chief of artillery for the division, was placed in position, and soon succeeded in forcing the enemy's battery to retire to a less exposed position. The skirmishers and line were then advanced across the creek, and the whole division deployed and ordered to advance, when I received notice that the enemy had broken up his formation and was in full retreat in the direction of Hankinson's Ferry. Their retreat from our front was doubtless greatly hurried by the advance of the division of General Logan on their right flank.

The two divisions, General Logan's and the Seventh, were united at the junction of the roads running from Grand Gulf and Willow Springs to Vicksburg, one brigade of General Logan's division preceding the Seventh Division on the march from there to Hankinson's Ferry.

At Hankinson's Ferry the division remained three days, bringing up its supplies of ammunition and provisions, and on the morning of May 7 resumed the march, following General Logan's division in the direction of Utica. The march was continued, with slight interruption and without incident, until May 12, on which day General Logan, having the advance, encountered the enemy in the vicinity of Raymond. The Seventh Division was hurried into position to support the division of General Logan. Two regiments of the Second Brigade, under Colonel Holmes, were sent to the right to support the brigade of General Stevenson, and the First Brigade, under Colonel Sanborn, formed to the left and rear of General Smith's brigade, supporting the Eighth Michigan battery, commanded by Captain De Golyer; the Third Brigade, Colonel Boomer, held in reserve. Soon after making this disposition of the troops, the enemy's whole line broke and fled in confusion, and, resuming our march, we proceeded without interruption to Raymond, where we encamped. From Raymond we marched to Jackson, via Clinton, following the division of General Logan to Clinton, where we again encamped.

On the 14th, we proceeded in the direction of Jackson, the Seventh Division having the advance, and marched without interruption until within about 3 miles of Jackson, when we encountered the enemy in strong position, his batteries posted so as to command the road and his infantry covered by woods and ravines. The division was at once deployed, the Second Brigade, commanded by Colonel Holmes, occupying the right and left of the road; the First Brigade, commanded by Colonel Sanborn, on the right and rear of the Second Brigade; and the Third Brigade, under Colonel Boomer, to the left and rear of the Second Brigade, this brigade in the woods. The line being thus formed, was ordered to advance, which it did, followed by the Sixth Wisconsin Battery, Captain Dillon commanding.

The advance was made in the most gallant and satisfactory manner. Not a man wavered or faltered, but proceeded, under the most galling fire, to drive the enemy at the point of the bayonet from his strong position. The battery advancing with the line of infantry, took position, and, when the enemy broke and retreated, poured into the fugitives an effective and destructive fire.

The enemy having abandoned his position, it was supposed that he would make a stand in his works before Jackson, but our skirmishers and line steadily advanced into their works and into the town without further resistance, taking possession of the works and seven guns, which the enemy in his haste had neither injured nor attempted to carry away.

Captain [Cornelius] Cadle, of my staff, and Captain Martin, acting

assistant adjutant-general of the First Brigade, planted the flag of the Fifty-ninth Indiana on the dome of the capitol of the State of Mississippi.

On the morning of the 15th, we retraced our steps in the direction of Clinton, General Logan's division taking the lead. From Clinton we proceeded [on the 16th] directly toward Vicksburg, the division of General Logan still having the lead. Near Edwards Depot we came up with the division of General Hovey, of Major-General McClernand's command, who, having the advance, encountered the enemy, posted with great care and in strong force across Baker's Creek, on what is called Champion's Hill. The two divisions, Generals Hovey's and Logan's, were at once formed, General Logan's on the right and General Hovey's on the left, and attacked the enemy with great fury, driving him on both flanks. In the mean time two brigades of the Seventh Division coming up, it soon became apparent that the enemy in front of General Hovey was being re-enforced, and that he was hard pressed. The Third Brigade, Colonel Boomer, was, therefore, ordered to proceed to his support, which he did in the most gallant style, ascending a hill, entering a wood, and taking position in front of an enemy of three times his force. The First Brigade, under Colonel Sanborn, moved to the right to support the batteries planted in the field.

It soon became apparent that the critical point was our left. As General Stevenson had been entirely successful in driving their left, the enemy seemed determined to effect the same with ours; two of the regiments of Colonel Sanborn's brigade were, therefore, ordered to the support of Colonel Boomer. Colonel Boomer, by the most desperate fighting, and with wonderful courage and obstinacy, held his position in spite of the continued and furious assaults of the enraged and baffled enemy; but it was apparent that he sorely needed assistance, and, unless speedily assisted, his position was in danger.

At this critical moment Colonel Holmes arrived in the field with two regiments of the Second Brigade, the Seventeenth Iowa and Tenth Missouri, and, being informed of the position of affairs, proceeded with the greatest alacrity and enthusiasm to the front, relieving Colonel Boomer, who by this time was entirely out of ammunition, and charged the enemy with a shout, who broke and fled in the greatest confusion, leaving in our possession the regimental flag of the Thirty-first Alabama, taken by the Seventeenth Iowa, and two guns of his battery. This ended the fight. Our right, under General Logan, had already driven them, and when they broke on the left the rout was complete. That night we encamped near the battle-field.

On the morning of the 17th, Brigadier-General Quinby having returned, I was relieved of the temporary command of the division.

During the time that I commanded the division, the loss in the several engagements was as follows:

Engagements.	Wounded.	Killed.
Skirmish of May 3	2	.....
Battle of Raymond	.....	2
Battle of Jackson	227	34
Battle of Champion's Hill	539	123
	768	159
Total wounded and killed	.....	927

Of the conduct of the officers and men of the division I cannot speak too highly; their charge at Jackson, seldom if ever excelled in any campaign, has been the theme of universal praise; the stubbornness and courage with which they fought at Jackson and Champion's Hill have won for them the admiration of the army.

To the staff of General Quinby I return my especial thanks for the zeal, industry, and fidelity with which they discharged their difficult duties during the march and on the battle-field. I am also under obligations to Captain Cadle for the fidelity with which he discharged his duties.

Several brave, reliable, and valuable officers of the command were killed in the different engagements, whose names and services are mentioned in the reports accompanying. For full details of achievements of the respective brigades and regiments reference is respectfully made to the reports of brigade and regimental commanders forwarded herewith.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. M. CROCKER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Seventh Division.

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 9.

Report of Col. John B. Sanborn, Fourth Minnesota Infantry, commanding First Brigade, including operations April 21–May 23.

HDQRS. 1ST BRIGADE, 7TH DIVISION, 17TH ARMY CORPS,
Camp in Field before Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to report the marches made by my command and the part taken by it in the battles fought during the campaign from Milliken's Bend, La., to this camp.

On April 21, I received your order to send forward one brigade to Richmond, La., immediately, and relieve the command stationed there. At this time the general commanding this division was absent, and my command consisted of the Seventh Division, comprising: First Brigade—Fifty-ninth and Forty-eighth Indiana, Seventy-second Illinois, and Fourth Minnesota Regiments; Second Brigade—Tenth Missouri, Seventeenth Iowa, Eightieth Ohio, and Fifty-sixth Illinois Regiments; Third Brigade—Fifth Iowa, Twenty-sixth Missouri, Ninety-third Illinois, and Tenth Iowa Regiments; and Battery M, First Missouri Light Artillery, Sixth and Twelfth Wisconsin Batteries, Eleventh Ohio Battery, two companies of cavalry, and pioneer corps of 137 effective men. The pioneer corps was already detached to work on Walnut and Roundaway Bayous, and did not come up during the time I remained in command of the division. This order was immediately complied with, and the Fifty-sixth Illinois and Seventeenth Iowa Regiments moved forward to Richmond the same day, distance 12 miles, and the remaining portion of the Second Brigade moved forward to Richmond the following day.

On April 23, I marched with the First Brigade and First Missouri and Eleventh Ohio Batteries to Richmond, and moved the Third Brigade and remaining batteries forward to that point on the 25th instant, and on the same day moved the Second Brigade on to Holmes' plantation,

distance 9 miles; and during that night marched the First Brigade, with the exception of the Seventy-second Illinois, which, pursuant to your order, I left in command of Richmond, and two batteries, up to the same point.

On the 26th, the First and Second Brigades and two batteries marched forward to Smith's plantation, distance 9 miles, and bivouacked, and the Third Brigade and remaining batteries moved forward to within about 4 miles of that point. All camp and garrison equipage had been left behind, and the teams sent back to Milliken's Bend to bring forward rations to keep the supply up to ten days on hand, in accordance with Special Orders, No. —, from department headquarters; but this train was seized and turned over to an ordnance officer to bring forward ammunition, and some of the regiments of the division were out of rations when we arrived at this point, and were supplied with bread by the post commissary.

On the 27th, the division did not move, for the reason that General Logan's division did not get past during the day, the roads being next to impassable.

On the 28th, the whole division moved together at 6 o'clock, and marched only about 4 miles during the day. I marched in the rear of General Logan's division, and the teams and batteries nearly all had to double the teams and go over the road twice.

On the 29th, the division was marched to Perkins' plantation, distance 11 miles, and bivouacked, and a few rations were obtained.

On the 30th, the march was continued to Hard Times Landing, opposite Grand Gulf, distance about 16 miles. At this point officers and men were a little disheartened upon learning that the Navy had found it impossible to reduce the Grand Gulf batteries, and that we must still continue our march down the river past this point before we could cross over.

Early on the morning of the 1st instant, I marched my command down the river to the point of embarkation for the east side. About the time of reaching this point, the rapid reports of artillery from the east side of the river announced that the advance of the army had come upon the enemy, and the soldiers were eager for the fray, and the infantry of the whole division (with the exception of the Fifty-sixth Illinois, which was detailed to remain in command of Hard Times temporarily), consisting of about 5,000 men, embarked on board transports, sailed 10 miles down the river to Bruinsburg, and disembarked in about one hour and a half, and moved forward toward the front line of the army before the brigade and division commanders could get their horses across the river.

After marching about 10 miles from the river toward the field of battle, and to a point within about 3 miles of the field, and before the division commander and staff had got up, an order was received from the major-general commanding the corps, by Colonel Holmes, commanding the leading brigade, to fall back to the junction of the Grand Gulf road with the Bruinsburg and Port Gibson road, and form, so as to resist any advance of the enemy from Grand Gulf by that road.

Colonel Holmes had disposed of the Second and Third Brigades and one battery of artillery in order of battle when I arrived upon the ground. The First Brigade and remaining batteries, with the exception of one held in reserve, were disposed in order of battle as fast as they came up, and in such manner as to resist any attack from the direction of Grand Gulf.

These batteries did not arrive so that the disposition could be completed till 11 o'clock at night.

During this day the division marched 11 miles, and embarked on transports and sailed 10 miles and disembarked, and was carefully drawn out in order of battle at night at 1 o'clock.

On the morning of the 2d instant, I received the order of the major-general commanding the corps to move forward my whole command at 3 a. m. to the field of battle. I marched accordingly, and at sunrise reported with my whole command on the field, having marched 6 miles.

At about 8 o'clock I was informed that the enemy had retired from the field, and I was ordered forward to Port Gibson, at which place I arrived with my command about 11 a. m., distance from the battle-field about 4 miles.

At this place the division remained about five hours, during which time the pontoon bridge was constructed across the south branch of Bayou Pierre, and during this time Brigadier-General Crocker reported to take command of the division, which marched about 8 miles to the north branch of Bayou Pierre before halting for night, making 19 miles that the division marched on this day.

Upon Brigadier-General Crocker assuming command of the division, I assumed command of the First Brigade. One regiment (the Fourth Minnesota) was detailed on fatigue duty during the night, to repair the suspension bridge crossing the north branch of Bayou Pierre that the rebel army had fired and partially burned.

During the time that I commanded the division, I received great assistance from Captain Rochester, assistant adjutant-general; Capt. L. B. Martin, temporary aide-de-camp; Lieutenant [Thomas S.] Campbell, aide-de-camp; Lieutenant [Ogden] Lovell, ordnance officer; Captain [Albert] Stoddard, judge-advocate and acting aide-de-camp, and Lieutenant [Charles L.] White, provost-marshal, all most gallant, efficient, and capable officers, and to all of whom I shall feel under lasting obligations. .

On the morning of May 3, I crossed the north branch of Bayou Pierre with my brigade, following General Logan's division and leading the Seventh Division. The enemy opened with artillery in our front early in the morning, but retired rapidly until General Logan's division led off to the left, toward the Grand Gulf road, and the Seventh Division was marching in advance on the road leading from the Port Gibson and Jackson road to Hankinson's Ferry. When about 5 miles south of the ferry, the enemy deployed a long line of skirmishers, and formed a few regiments of infantry and put in position a battery of artillery.

Immediately, in obedience to your orders, I deployed one regiment, Fifty-ninth Indiana, as skirmishers, with the center resting on the road leading to the Big Black River, and crossing said road at right angles. The Fourth Minnesota was ordered forward as a support on the right, and the Forty-eighth Indiana as a support on the left of the road, with instructions to keep within supporting distance of the skirmishers.

When the skirmishers had advanced about 1 mile from the head of the main column, they came to the enemy's line, with two pieces of artillery in such position as to command all the open ground in front, through which my command was obliged to pass. This open ground was passed in the order above mentioned, under a heavy fire from the enemy's guns. The Fifty-ninth Indiana was the most exposed, but did their duty most manfully, obeying every order with alacrity. The Fourth Minnesota and Forty-eighth Indiana, as supports, moved up promptly and without hesitation. The conduct of all the officers and men was commendable and satisfactory. The enemy was driven from his first, second, and third positions, when, in obedience to your orders,

I called in the skirmishers and moved on with my command to the crossing of the Big Black River, where we bivouacked, near Hankinson's Ferry.

In this skirmish I have to report the following casualties: Killed, Private Eli Faucette, and, mortally wounded, James W. Van Slyke, Company E, Fifty-ninth Indiana. Several of the officers and men of all the regiments sustained slight injuries, which scarcely can be called wounds.

While my command remained at Hankinson's Ferry, the greatest effort was made to procure rations; but there being no transportation, the command was compelled to leave with only two days' rations on hand.

On the 9th, the brigade moved with the balance of the division to Utica Cross-Roads, a distance of 12 miles, without opposition, and on the 10th marched 10 miles, through Utica and along the Raymond road, and on the following day moved forward 1½ miles, and formed in order of battle on a ridge, in a favorable position for defense. My command was entirely out of rations at this time, except what could be gathered from the country, and so remained until the evening of the 17th, at which time the regimental teams came up from Grand Gulf.

On the morning of the 12th, my command marched at 9 a. m., leading the Seventh Division and following General Logan's division. Shortly after noon heavy cannonading in front announced that the advance had fallen upon the enemy. My command was kept closed up as closely as possible to the rear of the Third Division, and after the lapse of an hour or two, I received an order from General Crocker, commanding the division, to move forward immediately and form on the left of General Logan's division. To arrive at the position indicated it was necessary to pass through a dense thicket of trees, brush, and vines, and then cross a clearing about 100 yards. It would seem that the enemy had formed the design of turning the left of our line, and had massed his infantry accordingly, and had planted his batteries so as completely to command this thicket and clearing, in order to prevent the left from being supported. As soon as my command commenced moving forward to form on the left, the enemy opened as heavy a fire as possible with his artillery upon me, but the formation was made in double-quick time, and my whole line moved up to within about 30 yards of our front line. Not more than a few moments elapsed after my command had reached this position before he advanced his lines of infantry upon the left, but was met with such firmness and so destructive a fire from the front line that he almost immediately gave way and fled from this part of the field. Immediately upon this having transpired, I received the order from General McPherson to move two regiments to my right in support of the center of our lines. The Fifty-ninth and Forty-eighth Indiana Regiments were immediately moved forward to the position indicated, and, at the suggestion of General Crocker, I offered to relieve the front line, which had been engaged at this time three or four hours, but these officers, among whom was the lamented Colonel Dollins, declined the offer, and said he felt certain that he could hold his position without aid.

The enemy by this time appeared in broken squads in front of the center, and in half an hour all firing had ceased and the enemy had fled in confusion from the field.

The only casualty in my command in this action was, Forty-eighth Indiana, 1 enlisted man wounded.

After the action ceased, the command marched through Raymond and

bivouacked about 1 mile north of the town. The Eighteenth Wisconsin Volunteers joined my brigade at this place.

On the morning of the 13th, I marched in rear of the Third Brigade on the road leading to Clinton, and passed through the town and bivouacked 1 mile east of it, on the Jackson road, my line of battle this night running across the railroad and the common road; distance marched this day, 9 miles.

My command marched from Clinton at 4 a. m. on the 14th, along the Jackson road toward Jackson, the Second Brigade leading the division and my brigade following the Second.

The enemy was found drawn up in line of battle in a strong position about 2 miles west of Jackson, his line of battle crossing the road at nearly right angles.

I received orders to form my brigade on the right of the road, the two left regiments, the Fourth Minnesota and Eighteenth Winconsin, in reserve for the Second Brigade, already formed across the road, the other regiments, the Forty-eighth and Fifty-ninth Indiana, to the right of the Second Brigade, all to be covered from the fire of the enemy's artillery as much as possible. This disposition was immediately made. The troops were more exposed to the enemy's artillery fire than was at first apprehended, and the Fourth Minnesota was immediately ordered to form on the left of the road, and as a reserve to the Seventeenth Iowa, of the Second Brigade. The other three regiments were moved close up under cover of the ridge occupied by the First Missouri Battery. This ridge was swept by the enemy's fire, but as soon as the skirmishers deployed from the Fifty-ninth Indiana had advanced far enough to ascertain that there was no enemy on the right flank, I ordered the brigade forward across the first ridge, with instructions to halt when the line should reach the ravine beyond, which was about 400 yards distant. This order was executed in the most satisfactory manner. The regiments crossed the ridge in perfect line at a run, and reached the second ravine with the loss of not more than 10 men. Shortly after reaching this position, the enemy's main line of infantry was ascertained by the skirmishers in front of my brigade to be in the next ravine, in front of his batteries, and soon commenced driving back our line of skirmishers. I received the order from General Crocker to fix bayonets and charge through the ravine and all the way to the enemy's batteries, if possible. This order was immediately communicated, and the whole line commenced advancing, and moved forward irresistibly, until the whole line of the enemy's infantry was in full retreat and his batteries taken to the rear. This charge was one of the most splendid battle scenes that could ever be witnessed.

The whole line, with banners unfurled, went forward at double-quick and with more regularity than at an ordinary battalion drill. The fleeing lines of the rebels in front; the sharpshooters, who had been concealed behind cotton bales and in an old cotton-gin in front of the Fifty-ninth Indiana, throwing out white handkerchiefs at every window and over every cotton bale, taken in connection with the novel spectacle presented by Captain Dillon's battery charging forward close upon the line of infantry, made up a scene that can never be effaced from the mind of any who witnessed it, and can never be properly represented on paper.

No language can do justice to the conduct of the officers and men of my command during this engagement. All seemed to seek positions of peril instead of safety, and where the enemy was strongest and most secure from danger, there did they charge the fiercest and with the

greatest determination. After this charge the enemy immediately retreated through Jackson, and my command moved into the city, over the enemy's works and artillery, unmolested by a shot.

Capt. L. B. Martin, acting assistant adjutant-general on my staff, seized the flag of the Fifty-ninth Indiana, my leading regiment, and, going far in advance of the skirmishers to the capitol, raised it over the dome, where it remained until the regiment moved from the town; and, Lieutenant Donaldson, aide-de-camp on my staff, riding also far in advance of the skirmishers to the vicinity of the prison, seized there a Confederate flag, made of double silk, that a cavalry company had apparently abandoned in its flight. On one side is the inscription, "Claiborne Rangers;" on the other, "Our rights."

The prisoners, eight in number, taken by the Fifty-ninth Indiana at the cotton-gin, who were sharpshooters just arrived from South Carolina, were immediately sent to the rear.

My loss in the engagement was as follows:

Command.	Enlisted men killed.	Wounded.	
		Officers.	Enlisted men.
48th Indiana	2	------	9
59th Indiana	------	1	3
4th Minnesota	------	------	2
18th Wisconsin	2	------	18
Total	4	1	32

During the night of the 14th, I supplied my command with three days' rations of sugar, bacon, and meal, and some other articles, most of which my quartermaster obtained from the penitentiary, and on the morning of the 15th my command marched back on the road toward Clinton, and passed through that place and bivouacked 4 miles west of it that night, having marched about 14 miles.

On the morning of the 16th, I moved my command at an early hour along the road toward Bolton and Edwards Depot, following the Third Brigade and Logan's division. I had marched but an hour and a half when rapid firing of artillery in front again announced the presence of the enemy.

My command moved forward rapidly, and arrived upon the field about the time the engagement became general.

I formed, as ordered, under cover of the woods, at the right of De Golyer's battery, and about 400 yards distant. During this formation I was under a light fire of artillery and musketry, from which I lost a few officers and men.

As soon as my command was reformed, I received an order from General McPherson, commanding the corps, to send two regiments immediately to the support of De Golyer's battery. I ordered forward the Fifty-ninth Indiana, with instructions to form on the left of the battery, and the Fourth Minnesota, with instructions to form on its right.

This order was complied with in double-quick time, and about the same time the regiments were so formed the enemy commenced falling back at this point (the enemy's left), and the regiments advanced, the

Fourth Minnesota across the ravine, capturing 118 prisoners, and the Fifty-ninth Indiana into the ravine, bearing farther to the left, and the enemy's line crossing the ravine diagonally at this point, capturing here the colors of the Forty-sixth Alabama Regiment (Sergt. John Ford, Company C, Fifty-ninth Indiana, captured them) and many prisoners. These regiments retained their positions on the right of our lines till the close of the engagement, about three hours.

By the time these two regiments had got into position on the right and left of the battery, I was ordered to take the other two of my command, the Forty-eighth Indiana and Eighteenth Wisconsin, about 100 rods to the east of the battery, and form there in the edge of the woods, in support of what seemed to be General Hovey's right.

The Forty-eighth Indiana Regiment immediately went into position under a most galling fire of musketry, and retained it for at least three hours, and long after the regiments on its right and left had given way, and then fell back by my order a short distance, to replenish ammunition, only after it was exhausted, but stood like a wall of adamant wherever it was placed till the close of the engagement.

The Eighteenth Wisconsin was moved from right to left and back two or three times, by order of the general commanding, as the attack was made more fiercely on either hand. The regiment moved with great promptness, and held every position firmly until removed by orders.

After this engagement ceased, I moved forward on the Vicksburg road about 3 miles, and bivouacked for the night.

My loss in the action of Champion's Hill is as follows:

Command.	Enlisted men killed.	Wounded.	
		Officers.	Enlisted men.
48th Indiana	3	.....	33
59th Indiana	1	.....	9
4th Minnesota	.....	1	1
18th Wisconsin	1	2	3
Total	5	3	46

On the morning of the 17th, I moved my command along the road toward the Big Black River, and halted at the river about noon, and soon after commenced the construction of a pontoon bridge with cotton bales and boards, which was completed the following morning, my brigade having been on fatigue duty all night constructing it.

On the morning of the 18th, my command, with the Third Brigade, crossed the river and moved forward toward Vicksburg. When about 3 miles west of the river, I was ordered to return to the east side of the Big Black and remain there, guarding all trains coming up and the bridge, until Colonel Holmes should come up from the battle-field with his brigade. I immediately returned and bivouacked my command on the same ground left in the morning, and remained there till the evening of the 19th, when Colonel Holmes and his command came up, and I again crossed the river and bivouacked about 2 miles west of it that night, and on the 20th came forward to the rear of Vicksburg, marching a distance of 17 miles with a most intense heat and suffocating dust all day.

On the 21st, I moved my command into line of battle in front of the enemy's works and deployed a line of skirmishers in front, and remained in this position till the morning of the 22d. A general assault having been ordered upon the enemy's works at 10 a. m. this day, I spent the night of the 21st, in connection with the lamented Colonel Boomer, commanding the Third Brigade, reconnoitering for the best approaches for infantry to the enemy's works in our front.

It was ascertained that we could approach to within about 80 yards under cover of the hills and form without great exposure to the men, and early on the morning of the 22d I moved my command into this position, and formed in line of battle on the left of the Third Brigade. Colonel Boomer had some doubts as to his ability to carry the works in his front, and as the works left in my front could not be held, if carried, while those on my right were in possession of the enemy, I transferred to him, for the purpose of this assault, the Fifty-ninth Indiana Regiment, and deployed the Eighteenth Wisconsin along our whole front as skirmishers.

These dispositions being made, the commanders of regiments were ordered to advance upon the works immediately upon the movement commencing on our right. For some reason the troops on our right did not move, and I retained the same position with some loss till about 3 o'clock, when I received an order from General McPherson, through General Quinby, commanding division, to move at once and vigorously upon the works. A staff officer was dispatched immediately to the regimental commanders to communicate this order, but before he had succeeded in doing so it was countermanded, and I was ordered to move with all my command, not deployed as skirmishers, to the left, to support Major-General McClernand. I immediately moved my command (with the exception of the Eighteenth Wisconsin, deployed as skirmishers) from its position, some 2 miles to the left, and was there ordered by General Quinby to support Burbridge's brigade, then engaged in front of the enemy's works. I immediately moved forward for that purpose, under the direction of a staff officer, and was led up through a ravine that was raked to a considerable extent by musketry and artillery to a point a few yards in rear of the line of this brigade. I was informed by General Burbridge that the position close to the enemy's works was not so exposed as the ravine, and he desired me to form nearer or in front of his line. I formed my brigade—Fifty-ninth Indiana on the right, Forty-eighth Indiana to its left, and the Fourth Minnesota to the left of the Forty-eighth. This position seemed very much exposed, and I lost several men during the formation.

My command was exceedingly exhausted, having had no rest the night of the 19th, marching nearly 20 miles the 20th, moving into camp the 21st, and having been under fire or marching all this day to the time I moved to this position, and one or two of the regiments having already lost 30 men during the day. As soon as my line was formed, General Burbridge's line gave way and his troops left the ground, with the exception of one regiment, which remained in support of the Fifty-ninth Indiana.

The enemy was largely re-enforced, and fired rapid and destructive volleys into my command, which were promptly returned, but the enemy, having so high and strong works in front, it cannot be expected with much effect. Once or twice the enemy came over his works in large numbers and formed on my right, with the evident design of turning my right flank, but was promptly driven back by my command with much slaughter.

I held this position for about two hours and until dark, and having no support, and seeing no reason why a position should be held at such sacrifice which, if lost, could be recovered at any time by a line of skirmishers, unless the enemy should choose to fight us outside of his works, which could hardly be expected, however much desired, and there being no general officer upon the ground, I ordered the position abandoned and my command to march back to the hill on the right of the railroad bridge, and there form and rest for the night. In falling back, Colonel Tourtellotte, Fourth Minnesota, took from the ground a piece of artillery that was in position within a few yards of the enemy's works when my command went upon the ground and left there by the brigade then in position.

The casualties in my command during this engagement, as the official lists will show, are greater than in all the balance of the campaign, and it seems to me all for no good. Success was no better than defeat, unless an assault was to be ordered, and I have not learned that such a thing was thought of, and, if thought of, would have been preposterous unless made by both brigades and in a most vigorous manner, and I can but feel that there was official misrepresentation or misconduct that led to this matter which requires investigation.

I am impelled to say this much in my report of this engagement by eloquent voices coming from the tombs of many of the most brave of my command, fallen in that fruitless struggle under the enemy's works.

The following are the losses in this engagement:

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men missing.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
48th Indiana	.....	8	.....	24	1
59th Indiana	1	10	4	95	1
4th Minnesota	1	11	7	35	.....
18th Wisconsin	.....	5	2	9	.....
Total	2	34	13	163	2

On the morning of the 23d, I moved my command forward about 400 yards, and formed, with one regiment on my left in rear of the right of General Burbridge's brigade, and two regiments in prolongation of his right, which position was occupied but a few hours, when my command moved back to the ground it left on the morning of the 22d, where it now remains.

Accompanying this report are full lists of the casualties of my command in the several and respective engagements of this campaign.

The conduct of all the officers and men of my command during the entire campaign has been more than satisfactory—it has been most gallant and praiseworthy. There has been no shirking and no desire to shirk on the part of either officers or men, and I have not found or even heard of a man out of his position in battle or on the march. I know not how soldiers could do more.

Capt. L. B. Martin, assistant adjutant-general, and Lieutenants [John S.] Akin and [James H.] Donaldson, aides-de-camp, have conducted themselves in the most gallant and faithful manner and deserve special mention.

The living are rewarded by the consciousness of having done all that human nature is capable of to suppress a most wicked rebellion and to preserve order and good government for themselves and posterity. But alas, for the patriotic and gallant dead; no language of mine can do justice to their virtues. May some Macauley or Bancroft recite in interesting narration their hardships, endurance, patriotism, valor, and achievements, and some modern Homer or Virgil live to sing them in heroic verse.

JOHN B. SANBORN,
Colonel, Commanding.

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 10.

Report of Capt. John S. Foster, Fourth Independent Company Ohio Cavalry, commanding Cavalry Battalion, including operations April 25–May 23.

HDQRS. MAJOR-GENERAL MCPHERSON'S ESCORT,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., May 24, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with Special Orders, No. 92, section 3, I submit the following report:

On the morning of April 25, 1863, I left camp at Milliken's Bend, La., with 20 men of the company, as an escort for General McPherson. The remainder of the company, being left behind to move with the headquarters of the corps, marched to Richmond, La., distance, 12 miles, and encamped for the night.

On the 26th, marched to Smith's plantation, on Bayou Vidal, and at that time the headquarters of the Department of the Tennessee; distance, 15 miles.

On the 27th, marched 6 miles farther and encamped.

On the 28th, marched to Perkins' Landing, on the Mississippi River; distance, 10 miles.

At 1 o'clock on the morning of the 29th, the march was continued to Hard Times Landing, about 20 miles below Perkins' Landing, opposite Grand Gulf, Miss., where we arrived that evening.

On the morning of the 30th, we moved to the place of embarkation. Disembarked 12 miles below Grand Gulf.

After crossing on the morning of May 1 with a part of the company and moving rapidly forward on the Port Gibson road to Thompson's Hill, where a severe fight was in progress, arrived on the battle-field about 10 a. m. Here all my men were detailed as orderlies for the corps and department headquarters; distance, about 20 miles.

On the morning of May 2, entered Port Gibson, and during the day was joined by that portion of the company which had been left behind to bring forward the headquarters train. On the evening of the same day, moved from Port Gibson to the north fork of Bayou Pierre, distance about 13 miles, arriving about 10 p. m., and was occupied until near daylight the next morning with an officer and 25 men in bringing in the stragglers belonging to the Third and Seventh Divisions of the corps.

At 6 o'clock on the morning of the 3d, crossed the bayou, and was sent, with my company and General Logan's escort, to reconnoiter the

front of the line of march, as the enemy were believed to be in force. I sent part of the command on the Willow Springs road, and, with the remainder, proceeded on the Grand Gulf road. Found the enemy in considerable force, with artillery, infantry, and cavalry, on both roads, but evidently retreating in the direction of Hankinson's Ferry, on the Big Black River. I sent part of the cavalry with General Grant to Grand Gulf, and, with the remainder, accompanied the corps, reconnoitering the front and flanks, and at night encamped on the Big Black at the above-named ferry; distance, 8 miles.

The next day was occupied by me in reconnoitering the country in the direction of and beyond Rocky Springs, capturing a number of horses, mules, wagons, and commissary stores, which were turned over to their respective departments, receiving receipts therefor.

Remaining in camp on the Big Black until the afternoon of May 7, moved to Rocky Springs; remained till the morning of the 9th, and took the advance of the army, reconnoitering the front of the line of march until the army arrived within 8 miles of Raymond, Hinds County, Mississippi, having considerable skirmishing with the enemy about 5 miles north of Utica on the afternoon of the 10th, encamping for the night on Weeks' plantation, and 23 miles distant from Hankinson's Ferry. Here a battalion of cavalry, composed of my company and Companies A and E, Second Illinois Cavalry, and Company C, Fifth Missouri Cavalry, was formed, in obedience to orders from headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps, to the command of which I was assigned, the battalion numbering 162 men for duty.

The 11th was occupied by me in reconnoitering the roads in front, to the right and left of Weeks' plantation, for a distance of 5 or 6 miles, encamping that night 2 miles in advance of said plantation.

On the morning of the 12th, I proceeded with my command at 3.30 a. m. on the Raymond road, soon meeting the enemy's cavalry, and commenced skirmishing with them, driving them within 2 miles of Raymond, losing Private Philip Wagner, Company C, Fifth Missouri, killed, and Herman Fensky, same company, wounded, and found the enemy in force, who, being engaged by General Logan's division, I used my command in watching the movements of the enemy on the right and left of our line of battle, with occasional skirmishing. After the enemy was routed, I started in pursuit, following them until after dark and about 3 miles beyond Raymond, capturing a number of prisoners; returned, and encamped in the latter place for the night; distance, 9 miles.

Moved out in advance of the column on the morning of the 13th on the Clinton road, scouting the country in every direction, and skirmishing all day with the enemy's cavalry, encamping for the night in Clinton, 10 miles distant from Raymond.

On the 14th, reconnoitered the country in the advance and flanks of the column, on the Jackson road, meeting the enemy's pickets about 5 miles from Jackson. The enemy being engaged by General Crocker's division, I used my cavalry in ascertaining, if possible, any movement on the part of the enemy to flank our position; also to communicate with General Sherman, who was on the right of our position. At the close of the fight moved into Jackson and encamped for the night; distance, 10 miles.

On the 15th, marched back on the Clinton road, passed through the town of Clinton, in the direction of Bolton Station, on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad, reconnoitering the country, encamping for the night on James' plantation, 15 miles from Jackson.

On the 16th, made a reconnaissance 3 or 4 miles to the right of Bol-

ton Station, visiting the plantation of Jefferson Davis, capturing his overseer, a lieutenant of the Twentieth Georgia Mounted Rifles [?], and a number of other prisoners, together with a number of mules and negroes of Davis'. The negroes were turned over to the pioneer corps of the Third Division, and the mules into the corral of the same division. Returning, joined the army during the severe engagement at Champion's Hill, where my command was used for divers purposes—a part of them for orderlies, some for driving up stragglers, and the remainder to watch the movements of the enemy on the right of our line. After the close of the engagement, moved forward about 2 miles and encamped.

On the 17th, moved to Big Black, 6 miles distant, crossing the river on the morning of the 18th, and, reconnoitering to the right, came up with the column of General Sherman, moved on, and, after a march of 17 miles, encamped before Vicksburg.

From the 17th up to the 23d my command has been detailed for different purposes, such as escorting wagon trains, &c.

On the 23d instant, I was ordered to direct my command, except those already detailed, and 13 more, to remain at headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps, to report to Colonel Johnson at Haynes' Bluff, where they yet remain on duty.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FOSTER,

Capt. Fourth Independent Company Ohio Cav., Comdg. Battalion.

Lieut. Col. W. T. CLARK,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Seventeenth Army Corps.

No. 11.

Report of Brig. Gen. John Gregg, C. S. Army, commanding Confederate forces.

AT CAMP IN MADISON COUNTY, MISS.,

May 20, 1863.

MAJOR: While in camp 2 miles east of Jackson, Miss., at 3 a. m. on the 11th instant, I received a dispatch from the lieutenant-general commanding, directing me to move my brigade promptly to Raymond, and I was directed to use Wirt Adams' cavalry, at Raymond, for advanced pickets.

By 5 o'clock the entire brigade was on the march, and at 4 p. m. we were at camp near Raymond. Upon my arrival I found the people in great consternation, being under the impression that the enemy were advancing from Port Gibson. I found none of Colonel Adams' cavalry except a single sergeant and 4 men. There was a small State company, under the command of Captain Hall, who were, as I was informed, scouting in the direction of Port Gibson. I immediately sent forward Sergeant Miles and 4 men to put themselves in communication with Captain Hall, and bring me what information of the enemy's movements could be obtained. I also placed strong infantry pickets on the road leading out southwardly and to the west.

In the mean time I had dispatched Colonel Adams to move his command to Raymond, unless otherwise ordered by Lieutenant-General Pemberton, his command being at Edwards Depot. During the night Captain [W. R.] Luckett, with a squadron of 50 men, reported to me,

and informed me that, having been ordered by Colonel Adams to picket the road leading from Raymond to Port Gibson and communicate with me, he had attempted to pass directly from Edwards Depot to the road below, without passing through Raymond, but had met the enemy at Dillon's, 9 miles distant from Raymond, and, being unable to pass, had returned. Fearing that it might be the purpose of the enemy to travel some one of the roads leading northeasterly into the road from Raymond to Jackson, and thus intercept my line of retreat, I ordered Captain [W. S.] Yerger, who had now come up and assumed command of the squadron, to picket all these roads, and give me early information of the enemy's movements in that direction.

Early next morning I was informed by couriers from Captain Hall that the enemy were advancing rapidly by the road from Utica. Owing to the smallness of the mounted force (Captain Hall having but 40 men, and these mostly youths from the neighborhood), I was unable to ascertain anything concerning the strength of the enemy. A dispatch from the lieutenant-general commanding intimated that the purpose of the enemy was supposed to be an advance upon Edwards Depot, and I inferred from it that it was possible that the force in front of me was a brigade on a marauding excursion. I was strengthened in this opinion by my scouts, who reported that the force they had seen was about 2,500 or 3,000. It was absolutely necessary for me to await their coming, or to fall back without knowing whether the force of the enemy was superior or inferior to my own.

The enemy moved up rapidly, and commenced an artillery fire upon my picket post at 10 o'clock.

In the mean time I had moved the Seventh Texas Regiment (Colonel [H. B.] Granbury) to support the picket at the junction of the Port Gibson and Utica roads, and had moved the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment (Lieutenant-Colonel [T. W.] Beaumont) out on the Lower Gallatin road, and ordered out the Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee Regiments, consolidated (Col. R. W. MacGavock), to support it. I also ordered up the Third Tennessee Regiment (Col. C. H. Walker), a half mile out, and placed it in position between the roads. A single field, dotted with spots of timber, separated the Lower Gallatin and Utica roads, and the main force of the enemy was on the latter road. Finding that I would necessarily be driven into town by his artillery unless I moved up nearer, and believing from the evidence I had that his force was a single brigade, I made my dispositions to capture it. I moved the Fiftieth, Tenth, and Thirtieth Tennessee across a portion of the field into the timber, to fall upon the enemy in rear of his battery, with instructions that they were to approach the enemy as near as possible and wait an attack by our right. I placed Captain [H. M.] Bledsoe, with his three pieces of artillery, on the road leading to Utica and Port Gibson, near their junction, directing him to select the most commanding position. Near the artillery I posted the First Tennessee Battalion. I then ordered up the Third Tennessee into the open field to the right of the Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee, and the Seventh Texas I moved by the left flank behind some timber to the right of the Third Tennessee. I then sent back an order to the Forty-first Tennessee (Colonel [R.] Farquharson) to move his regiment to the position just before occupied by the Third Tennessee. I then ordered forward both the Seventh Texas and Third Tennessee into the timber behind which the enemy's battery was posted, the enemy's skirmishers having already been firing upon them from that wood. Skirmishers being advanced, they moved forward in gallant style, and hardly lost a man until they entered the

timber. The enemy was drawn up in two lines, but both lines were scattered immediately and fell back in a few minutes, but the enemy continued to re-enforce with fresh troops. The firing of musketry was rapid and continuous for more than two hours, and in that time I learned from Colonel Beaumont that no attack was made by the Fiftieth because of the immense force which extended back in the wood as far as he could see, and because the enemy were advancing a large force on his left flank.

Owing to the failure of the Fiftieth, Tenth, and Thirtieth Tennessee to attack, the enemy were enabled to place a force upon the left flank of the Third Tennessee. I immediately ordered up the Forty-first to relieve the left of the Third Tennessee. Colonel Farquharson moved up in good order and took position promptly. By this time the superior force of the enemy had driven back the Seventh Texas and Third Tennessee, after great loss from both these regiments. Their retreat was protected by the Forty-first Tennessee, and the enemy having moved up on the left of our line, and having engaged the Tenth, Thirtieth, and Fiftieth Tennessee, the Forty-first also acted as a support to them.

In this part of the engagement Col. R. W. MacGavock, of the Tenth Tennessee (commanding the consolidated Tenth and Thirtieth), was killed, and Lieutenant-Colonel [J. J.] Turner, of the Thirtieth, took command.

Receiving a dispatch at this time from Colonel Adams stating that the enemy had a large supporting force advancing, I ordered all the regiments to withdraw, which was effected in admirable order. Captain Bledsoe, with his artillery (one of the pieces of which burst during the engagement), continued during the whole day to keep back the enemy from advancing either through the open field or by the road, and I have reason to think did great execution among his lines.

During the engagement I ordered up Major [S. H.] Colms with his battalion (First Tennessee) upon the right of our line, to prevent the enemy from throwing forward any part of his force between my own and the town, and he here engaged the enemy also.

After the retrograde movement was commenced, Colonel [A. P.] Thompson, of the Third Kentucky, with six companies of mounted troops, reported to me, having just arrived from Jackson. I immediately placed this force in position, together with Captain Bledsoe and his two remaining pieces, and this position they held until the infantry had moved some distance in the direction of Jackson, when they withdrew by my direction.

I cannot speak in terms of commendation too high of the coolness and judgment manifested by the commanders of the different regiments.

Col. R. W. MacGavock, of the Tenth Tennessee (commanding Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee consolidated), was killed while gallantly urging his command to the conflict. Lieutenant-Colonel Beaumont was stricken on the head by a rifle-ball, and for a time disabled while in the midst of the action.

To all the commanding officers of regiments and battalions my thanks are due for the courage and skill displayed by them in the management of their commands, and I cannot too much applaud the judgment and coolness with which their efforts were seconded by the other field and company officers.

The losses will be seen by reference to the reports hereto annexed. It will be seen that they were severe, especially in the Seventh Texas and Third Tennessee. The aggregate of killed in the brigade was 73; wounded, 229; missing, 204. Of this number there were killed in the

Forty-first Tennessee, 2; wounded, 7. In the First Tennessee Battalion, killed, 3; wounded, 9. In the Fiftieth Tennessee, killed, 4; wounded, 8. In the Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee (consolidated), killed, 15; wounded, 59. In the Seventh Texas, killed, 22; wounded, 66. In the Third Tennessee, killed, 27; wounded, 90.

It will be seen that the Third Tennessee and Seventh Texas were in the most trying part of the engagement. Prisoners taken by the enemy and escaped to us report the enemy's loss at 150 killed and 400 wounded. I consider their statements reliable.

Our aggregate engaged was 2,500. I have ascertained that the enemy had in the field three divisions, but the division commanded by Major-General Logan was the one particularly engaged.

My command was encamped for the night, together with 1,000 men brought up by Brig. Gen. W. H. T. Walker, 5 miles from the battle-field.

Very respectfully,

JOHN GREGG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Brigade.

Maj. R. W. MEMMINGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General.*

ADDENDA.

Return of Casualties in the Confederate forces at Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863.

[Compiled from nominal lists of casualties, returns, &c.]

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.	Officers killed.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
3d Tennessee	2	25	5	85	.....	70	187	Captain [R. T.] Cooper and Lieutenant [W. W.] Rutledge.
10th Tennessee	1	7	6	31	1	6	52	Colonel MacGavock and Lieut John Ames mortally wounded.
30th Tennessee	.....	7	.....	28	.....	1	36	
41st Tennessee	1	1	.....	7	.....	14	23	Capt. Abner S. Boone.
50th Tennessee	.....	4	.....	7	.....	5	16	
1st Tennessee Battalion.	.....	3	1	8	.....	30	42	
7th Texas	1	21	8	65	3	60	158	Capt. W. H. Smith. Lieut. J. C. Kidd, J. W. Taylor, and A. H. White mortally wounded.
Total	5	68	20	231	4	186	514	

No. 12.

Report of Col. C. H. Walker, Third Tennessee Infantry.

CAMP NEAR CALHOUN STATION, MISS., *May* 16, 1863.

I submit the following report of the part taken by the Third Tennessee Regiment in the battle near Raymond, Miss., May 12:

I was posted near the graveyard, and ordered to hold myself in readiness to move in any direction that necessity might require. At about 12 o'clock I was ordered to move on the Lower Gallatin road to a field, where I formed a line of battle in a ravine to the right of a scope of woods, and about 200 yards in front of another body of timber occupied by the enemy, the Seventh Texas being on my right. I was ordered by General [John] Gregg to advance to the woods in line of battle, with skir-

mishers in front, and on reaching the woods to move the regiment by the right of companies through it to the open field beyond, where the enemy were supposed to be in line. I advanced as ordered until my skirmishers reached the woods, when I discovered that the enemy were in strong force near its edge. I then ordered a charge, which was made in the most gallant manner under a galling fire, driving the enemy before us. They attempted to rally behind a deep ravine, with almost perpendicular banks, but our advance was so rapid (the men jumping into the ravine and climbing up the opposite side) that the enemy again gave way and fled out of the woods into the open field. There they planted their colors in the ground, and made another effort to rally around them, but a sharp volley from our side speedily dispersed them. Upon reaching the edge of the woods, I received a heavy volley into the rear of my left flank. Not being able to see, on account of the thick brush, and supposing that the Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee were there for my support, as General Gregg had assured me would be the case, I did not order a change of position, but directed the whole line to be held firm, until I went to the left and became satisfied that the enemy was in the rear, and at the same time a new column made its appearance in front. On discovering these positions of the enemy, I withdrew the regiment in as good order as the nature of the ground and thick undergrowth would admit, but not soon enough to prevent the capture of many of the men, who were in the most advanced positions. I reformed the regiment to the rear and right of the point from which we had advanced into the woods, and again formed a line on the same ground formerly occupied. Here, learning that the enemy were still flanking my left, I moved by the left flank to the rear of the scope of woods, and again formed the regiment on the Lower Gallatin road. While at this point, Lieutenant Gardin reported a probable approach of a cavalry force on my rear. Not knowing the position of any other of our regiments except the Seventh Texas, I moved to the left and rear, intending to join it, when I met Captain [T. W.] Hall, assistant adjutant-general, who ordered me to retire slowly toward town, concealing my movements as much as possible.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the conduct of the officers and men of my command during the action. Every one did his duty. I reproached many men for not halting and firing as they retired, but learned afterward that they had no cartridges, having fired the last one in their boxes before they were ordered from the front. I herewith append a list* of casualties.

C. H. WALKER,
Colonel, Commanding Third Tennessee.

No. 13.

Report of Lieut. Col. James J. Turner, Thirtieth Tennessee Infantry, commanding Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee.

MAY 18, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I beg leave to submit the following report of the part taken by the Tenth and Thirtieth Tennessee Regiments in the fight near Raymond, Miss., on May 12:

We moved out on the Gallatin road about 9 a. m., and were posted

* See p. 739.

first across the road, about 1 mile from town, during the first artillery fight. While thus posted we were ordered to move forward between the Gallatin and Utica roads, through the woods, for about half a mile, and were then formed in line of battle in the woods in front of an open field, with instructions to attack the enemy when the Fiftieth Tennessee became engaged, but as they made no attack we waited for further orders. While thus posted, the artillery was still engaged, and I could distinctly hear the commands of the Federal officers, some 400 yards in our front, forming in line of battle and also moving to our left in the direction of the Gallatin road. After remaining there for some fifteen minutes, we were ordered to move to the left about 600 yards, which we did at a double-quick, and we then formed in line in the edge of a dense woods, a large field being in our rear. I ordered forward a company of skirmishers in our front, and immediately I heard the engagement open between the enemy and the Third Tennessee and Seventh Texas. At this juncture we received an order leaving it discretionary whether to attack the enemy or not. After waiting a few minutes the skirmishers were withdrawn, and we moved rapidly by the right flank for about 500 yards, and reached a position near that of the Third Tennessee, and after seven of the consolidated companies had filed into the field, the whole command changed direction by the left flank and moved forward rapidly in line. As soon as those in the field reached the crest of the hill, the enemy opened upon us from the front and right, and Colonel MacGavock ordered a charge, which was responded to with alacrity by all the command. The command charged forward gallantly, cheering and firing as they went. The enemy, being on our right flank and strongly posted in the woods in our front, poured into our ranks a most destructive fire. We, however, drove them from the field on our right flank and reached the woods, but were forced to fall back to the top of the hill, and I formed them immediately in rear of the crest of the hill, and ordered them to lie down and load and fire, so as to be protected from the enemy's fire, which continued very heavy. The three consolidated companies on the left wing being in a dense pine woods, could not move as fast as the balance of the command, and, seeing the right fall back, I ordered the left to halt on the crest of the hill, and lie down under cover and load and fire to the right and front. Colonel MacGavock, in a few seconds after ordering the charge, while gallantly leading his men, fell, mortally wounded, and some 5 commissioned officers of the Tenth Tennessee were wounded about the same time. The firing thus continued for about half an hour without intermission on either side.

We had left the Fiftieth Tennessee on our left, and I understood that they were to remain there to protect that flank, but, hearing nothing from them, I became apprehensive, and sent out Captain [C. S.] Douglass with a company of skirmishers to our left, who came back in a few minutes and reported that the enemy had advanced a heavy force in the open field on our left for some 250 yards in rear of my left flank, but separated from it by a dense pine undergrowth, some 200 yards wide, which had concealed their movement from my view. The enemy being in full force in my front, and sweeping around on my left with superior numbers, with the evident intention of gaining the Gallatin road and attacking us in the rear, so as to cut off our retreat, I at once saw that the only alternative was to quietly withdraw from the front and attack those on our left. I about-faced the command, and moved it back to the hollow some 100 yards, and then moved them by the right flank into the woods near the field where the enemy were, and ordered the whole command to cheer and halloo and charge the enemy at a double-

quick, being forced to do so. Faced by the rear rank, the order was enthusiastically responded to by officers and men, and at them they went, yelling like savages. The enemy stood till we came near the field, and delivered one volley at us, and then broke in utter confusion, and attempted but once to rally on their colors, but we came up within 30 steps of them and killed their color-bearer, and the rout was complete. We drove them in all some 600 yards and until they reached the thick woods, and where they had a regiment drawn up in reserve, and fearing to advance longer, I ordered back the command to the crest of the hill, and formed them and ordered them to lie flat down. I then posted Captain [John] O'Neill's company on the highest point of the hill, behind some houses and trees, to watch the enemy, and to fire on any of his advance or skirmishers that came in range, the fire being kept up all the time by the sharpshooters on each side. In about twenty minutes the enemy formed in line in the edge of the woods about 250 yards in our front, and threw forward their skirmishers at a run to a ravine about 50 yards from us, but Captain O'Neill's company, and some others below in some stables, poured into them a heavy fire, and they were forced to lie flat down in the ravine and conceal themselves, never again annoying us. While posted at this position I had from the cover of the hill a fine view in front and on either flank, and I saw two regiments of the enemy in our front and two on our left, moving in the direction of the Gallatin road, and who were fired into by the skirmishers of the Forty-first Tennessee, besides some cavalry moving in the same direction; their number, however, I could not estimate.

We fought in the different engagements four regiments of the enemy without any assistance from artillery, and at the time we were ordered to retire a large number were without ammunition, and had we remained much longer we must have been captured. We secured and sent to the rear some 15 or 20 prisoners in the last engagement. In the first engagement I have no accurate means of knowing the loss of the enemy, but it was fully equal to our own, however; in the second fight, as we passed over and occupied the ground fought on, I can judge of their loss with considerable accuracy, and I estimate their killed and wounded there at 150; 20 were counted near one stable. When we fell back to town we lost 3 wounded.

The men and line officers of both regiments, with but few exceptions, did their whole duty, and it would be invidious to mention the names of any without giving all.

Lieutenant-Colonel [William] Grace and Major [B. G.] Bidwell were present all the time, and did their whole duty as brave and gallant officers.

Adjutants [T. R.] Kelsey and [E. T.] Bush were prompt in carrying all orders, and contributed much to our success by their bravery and gallantry.

In the fall of Colonel MacGavock the service has lost a brave and meritorious officer, and society an educated and talented gentleman.

The following is a list* of the casualties of the Tenth and Thirtieth, so far as I can learn them.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES J. TURNER,
Lieut. Col. Thirtieth Tenn., Comdg. Tenth and Thirtieth Tenn.

[Captain] THOMAS W. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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* See p. 739.

No. 14.

Report of Col. R. Farquharson, Forty-first Tennessee Infantry.

HEADQUARTERS GREGG'S BRIGADE,
Near Mississippi Springs, May 13, 1863.

In the engagement yesterday near Raymond, my regiment (Forty-first Tennessee) being held in reserve, all the companies were not actively engaged until near its close; but in changing positions the regiment was several times under heavy fire. When moving from near the center of our line of battle to the extreme left, which, judging from the firing in that direction, I apprehended was seriously menaced, I found the enemy's skirmishers or sharpshooters advancing into a skirt of timber which partially enveloped our extreme left. I immediately threw out Captain [A. S.] Boone's company as skirmishers, with orders to clear the woods in front, and then moved the regiment farther to the left to a strong position on the ——— road, thus forming as well as covering the extreme left of our line. Our skirmishers, under the gallant Captain Boone, advanced into the woods, driving the enemy, and did not fall back immediately, although met by a heavy force of the enemy, but continued to advance until fired upon by the enemy's line. Captain Boone was killed at this discharge, and the enemy advancing immediately, occupying the ground, I am sorry to say that the body of this gallant officer had to be left on the field. The enemy made no farther advance in that direction, however, and we continued to hold our position for more than half an hour, and until we were ordered by General Gregg to retire slowly from the field in rear of the brigade, which we did very slowly and in excellent order.

The following is a list of casualties.*

Respectfully submitted.

R. FARQUHARSON,
Colonel Forty-first Tennessee.

Capt. THOMAS W. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 15.

Report of Lieut. Col. T. W. Beaumont, Fiftieth Tennessee Infantry.

MAY 16, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In obedience to an order directing me to forward a report of the part my regiment sustained in the engagement near Raymond on Tuesday last, &c., I have to state that in the forenoon of Tuesday I was ordered to take position with my regiment on the Lower Gallatin road, about 1½ miles from Raymond, with instructions to extend my line toward the left, if the enemy continued to move in that direction. Before reaching the position, the battle was opened by the artillery, with occasional musketry. It was not long before General [John] Gregg rode up and ordered me to move through an old field into a woods in rear of the enemy's battery, and attack the battery in rear unless I should find it too strongly protected by infantry, and, in the latter event, to fall back, maintaining as good order as possible. The Tenth and Thirtieth

* See p. 739.

Tennessee Regiments, under Colonel [R. W.] MacGavock, were ordered to support me in the attack. On passing the picket station in the field, I was informed by one of the sentinels that the enemy had possession of the woods, and that the commands of their officers could be distinctly heard. I deployed skirmishers in advance of the regiment and moved cautiously into the woods. The skirmishers had to pass over a running stream of water, with steep, abrupt banks, up which they pulled themselves by the roots of trees and bushes, preserving their line and marching all the while in admirable order. The regiment followed at proper distance, observing the general's precaution to maintain perfect silence. They had just crossed the creek when a rapid firing of the skirmishers indicated the presence of the enemy. I proceeded at once to the front, and found that the fire had been directed on a body of the enemy's cavalry. The effect of the fire was highly satisfactory. The enemy fled in every direction, many of the horses without riders, and many of the riders without horses, while a considerable number were left dead on the field. We continued to fire on them as long as they were in sight.

On reconnoitering the position, I found that the battery was supported by a line of infantry, which extended as far as I could see toward our right, their right resting in the woods in which we were standing. On our left another body of troops was seen, but their strength could not be estimated, as they were hidden from view, with the exception of one regiment, by the timber. The space open to view on the right was sufficient to contain two full regiments. I was satisfied that an attack would be uninviting. I therefore ordered the regiment to withdraw from the woods, and, in accordance with instructions received in the forenoon from General Gregg, proceeded toward the left, to prevent the force which I had seen in that direction from outflanking us. I sent Major [C. W.] Robertson to inform the general of the state of affairs and of my movements. He soon rejoined us, stating that he could not learn where the general was at that time. I learned from him that Colonel MacGavock was in the same part of the field with myself. I had supposed until then that he was farther toward the right.

The enemy continued to extend their line toward the left, and in endeavoring to keep even pace with them, I passed Colonel MacGavock's command. From him I ascertained that it was the general's intention to attack the enemy's lines, and that he would expect us to advance at once. As there was a wide interval between the Tenth and Thirtieth (now again on our right) and the center regiments, I placed myself under Colonel MacGavock's orders to insure concert of action, which I considered of the greatest importance to the success of the attack. He indicated the position he wished me to occupy, to which I proceeded, formed line of battle, and sent to let him know that I was ready to advance as soon as he gave the word. In answer to my message, he sent word that he would await orders. A short time afterward he moved his regiment toward the right and I lost sight of him.

Our regiment was thus left entirely alone. I sent scouts and skirmishers to the front and to both flanks. In a few moments afterward I heard rapid and continuous firing, indicating a hot engagement between the Tenth and Thirtieth and the enemy, and my scouts returned with information that Colonel MacGavock was driven from his position and was falling back; that the woods which we occupied were full of Yankees, and that they were advancing in large force in front of us. I had scarcely received their reports before a heavy fire was poured into my right flank, and the skirmishers of the enemy were advancing rapidly in my front. I withdrew the regiment in tolerable order and proceeded

to the road. Here we received another fire from the enemy, who occupied the position previously vacated by Colonel MacGavock. We formed line of battle promptly, and returned their fire with the effect of driving them back, and without further annoyance we reached the position originally held by us in the morning. I learned here that Colonel MacGavock had not fallen back; my scout, having no knowledge of his change of position as above stated, supposed when he found he was gone that he had abandoned the field. The engagement between his command and the enemy was renewed, and, guided by the sound of the guns, we advanced to his support. The firing, however, ceased before we definitely ascertained where the battle was going on, but we continued our advance in the same direction. In crossing the field intervening between us and the point we were aiming at, we met the Forty-first Tennessee Regiment on their way to the extreme left. When we reached the woods, we found ourselves on the right of the Tenth and Thirtieth. The firing, with the exception of a little sharpshooting, had ceased.

The enemy on our right were preparing to advance to the road through the old field into our rear, thus cutting off communication with the town and endangering the safety of the Tenth and Thirtieth and Forty-first Regiments. We marched quickly by the right flank into the field, under cover of a ravine with rather steep hills on each side. The enemy's skirmishers were deployed in our front, a little to the right. I posted my line of skirmishers behind the crest of the hill and ordered them to fire. The fire was effective, and drove them back in considerable confusion into their cover in the woods. When they reached the woods where their main body was concealed, they opened a feeble fire upon us, but a single volley from our regiment silenced them completely, and as long as we remained on the field they made no further effort to get into our rear in that direction.

After this we were requested by the officer commanding the Tenth and Thirtieth to dispose our regiment so as to meet a body of the enemy then advancing as if to attack them in flank. To meet this movement it was necessary to march by the left flank into the woods again. After posting skirmishers to watch the movements of that body of the enemy we had just engaged, we re-entered the woods, and disposed the regiment in a way to meet the movement of the enemy in either direction on the right or left. While in this position, awaiting developments and resting the men, I was informed that the Tenth and Thirtieth and Forty-first Regiments had been ordered to fall back. Having ascertained that this information was correct, and having no orders to the contrary, I also withdrew my regiment, as their falling back left me too much exposed. We reached the road in time to take position between the Tenth and Thirtieth and Forty-first, and in this order marched back to town. While in the road, the enemy's artillery kept up a vigorous shelling, but this did not prevent us from securing our knapsacks and haversacks, which had been left on the roadside as we went out to the field.

The officers and men of the regiment behaved exceedingly well. Some of the new recruits became confused in some of the maneuvers, and a few of them fired badly, but most of them, even some who have since deserted, fought bravely.

I am indebted to the officers and men of Companies A and B for the manner in which they performed their duties as skirmishers. Also to Lieutenant [R. T.] Hewell, Company F, employed as a scout, for prompt information of the enemy's movements.

Major Robertson was consulted in almost all the important movements, and is entitled to a full share of whatever credit is due the regiment.

I must be permitted also to express my acknowledgment of the services of Captain Porter, of General Johnston's staff, who volunteered in my regiment, and commanded a company during the engagement.

Two of my largest companies (D and G) were on picket duty during the engagement, and another (Company E) was escorting a foraging train, and did not reach the field until the battle had been going on several hours. I felt their absence very keenly.

In the attack on the enemy in the old field, the last attack we made, I received a slight wound in the head, which bled profusely, but did not disable me.

The following is a list of casualties.*

All of which is respectfully submitted as my official report of the part sustained by the Fiftieth Tennessee Regiment in the battle of Raymond.

T. W. BEAUMONT,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Regiment.

Capt. THOMAS W. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 16.

Report of Maj. S. H. Colms, First Tennessee Battalion.

MAY 16, 1863.

SIR: On Tuesday last, at Raymond, I was ordered to move my command out on the Port Gibson road, which was done. After we took our position, I was ordered to support Bledsoe's battery. About 2 p. m. I was ordered to occupy a position in a skirt of woods immediately in front of the enemy and on the north side of the Port Gibson road. This position was scarcely taken until I was ordered to double-quick and take position in the rear of Bledsoe's battery. The movement was nearly completed when I was ordered to check a flank movement of the enemy on their extreme left. I immediately moved my command forward, and took position in the field on the south side of the Port Gibson road, under the fire of the enemy's batteries, and on his extreme left, where I found [formed] my line of battle as last designated. The enemy had drawn up in line two regiments, and was in the act of making a flank movement. As soon as they saw us in line on their left flank, they fled behind a skirt of woods on the south side of the field and disappeared. During this time the enemy's sharpshooters and their batteries were keeping up a most terrific fire upon us. When the enemy disappeared from our front, I changed my position to the road on the left of Bledsoe's battery, and then again by order still farther to the left, under the brow of a hill in the field to the left of the road.

In this action we suffered severely in killed, wounded, and missing, a list of which is as follows:*

S. H. COLMS,
Major First Tennessee Battalion.

Capt. THOMAS W. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant General.

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* See p. 739.

No. 17.

Report of Col. H. B. Granbury, Seventh Texas Infantry.

IN CAMP NEAR CALHOUN STATION, MISS.,
May 15, 1863.

CAPTAIN: On Tuesday, the 12th instant, about 9 a. m., I received orders from Brigadier-General [John] Gregg to move my regiment from its position in camp near Raymond, Miss., to a point about 1 mile south of the town, near the fork of the Port Gibson and Utica roads. In half an hour I was in position in a small wood on the left of the road; and about 100 paces from the fork, the enemy's cavalry being then in view in the field southward. I sent Captain [T. B.] Camp, of Company B, with a small detachment of picked men from his company, and Company A (armed with Enfield rifles), to a bridge on the Utica road, some 300 or 400 paces in advance of the position then occupied by the regiment. In a few moments he was engaged with the enemy's cavalry, and he reports 3 unhorsed.

In the mean time, the enemy had a battery in position about 600 yards in advance of our position, and opened fire on Captain [H. M.] Bledsoe's battery, then being planted in the field, on the right of the road and a little to the rear of my position. Private [D.] Kennedy, of Company H, was wounded in the leg by a shrapnel from the enemy's battery. In the course of three-quarters of an hour I moved my regiment, by the general's order, diagonally through the wood to an open field to the left, forming for attack at a position opposite the bridge, at which Captain Camp's skirmishers were engaged. The Third Tennessee were already in line of battle on my left. I advanced skirmishers (leaving Captain Camp's detachment to protect my right flank), under Captains [W. H.] Smith and [J. H.] Collett, the line following at a distance of 100 paces. The ground was open to the top of the hill in front, and from there across a creek bottom to the enemy's second line on the next hill was wooded.

I should have remarked that, before advancing, Private J. L. Galloway, of Company A, was severely wounded in the shoulder by a grape or canister shot, the enemy's battery having discovered and opened fire on us while forming.

As my skirmishers neared the wood on the brow of the hill, the enemy commenced firing from their first line of infantry, posted near the base of the hill. I ordered my regiment to advance in double-quick time. The men obeyed with alacrity, and, when in view of the enemy, rushed forward with a shout. So near were the enemy and so impetuous the charge, that my regiment could have blooded a hundred bayonets had the men been supplied with that weapon. As it was, the enemy fled after firing one volley, leaving a number of prisoners, among them Captain Tubbs, Twenty-third Indiana Infantry, who struck at Major [K. M.] Vanzandt with his sword, and was disarmed by Sergeant [J. M. C.] Duncan, of Company K.

The enemy made a stand of some ten minutes at the creek, when we took position just beyond the run of the creek, using the bluff as a breastwork. After holding this position an hour and a half (during which time the firing was uninterrupted and terrific), I received word from Lieutenant-Colonel [C. J.] Clack, Third Tennessee, that the enemy were outflanking his regiment on the left. I ordered Lieutenant-Colonel [W. L.] Moody to withdraw the right of the regiment, and I went

to see Major Vanzandt, to attend to the left and center. Reaching the left, I thought we could still hold the position, and reflecting that General Gregg had told me that the Tenth, Thirtieth, and Fiftieth Tennessee Regiments were to attack the enemy's right, I dispatched a runner to Lieutenant-Colonel Moody, with an order to hold his position. The messenger was killed before reaching Colonel Moody, and he, following the original order, withdrew about three companies from the right. Upon reaching the open field to the rear, he rallied these, with some stragglers from other regiments, and seeing the Tenth Tennessee going into action on the left, joined them with the remainder of the regiment. I held the position on the bluff of the creek until the men had exhausted their own ammunition and emptied the cartridge-boxes of the dead of the enemy and of our own killed and wounded; besides, the Third Tennessee having previously withdrawn, the enemy had doubled round my left flank, and were pouring a murderous enfilading fire along my already shattered ranks. I then ordered a retreat.

Captain [W. H.] Smith (Company F), after acting with marked gallantry, fell, pierced with three balls. Captain [J. W.] Brown was wounded in the head and abdomen, but borne from the field and saved. Captain [J. H.] Collett (Company G) was wounded by a grape-shot. Captain [O. P.] Forrest (Company H) fell in the retreat. I do not know the nature of his injury. Lieutenants [J. C.] Kidd (Company A), [J. W.] Taylor (Company D), and [A. H.] White (Company I), were all wounded. Lieutenants [J. D.] Miles (Company G) and [T. S.] Townsend (Company E) were slightly wounded. Lieutenants [W. A.] Collier and [J. N.] Monin (Company K) were at the creek when the retreat was ordered. They are among the missing. All these officers were in the front of the fight, and behaved with the soldier's best courage.

The cool bravery of Lieutenant-Colonel Moody, on the right, and Major Vanzandt, on the left, sustained the regiment for so long a time in this unequal combat.

The above statement of facts will show that all the officers of the line and the men did their whole duty.

My loss in killed is known to be so many as 22; in wounded, 66, and missing, 70.

The woods were very thick, and it is probable that many of the missing are either killed or wounded. My judgment is that there were as many as 30 or 40 of the enemy's killed from the edge of the wood to the creek and in the run of the creek. What their loss was beyond the creek, where we did the greatest execution and fought the longest, is a matter of conjecture.

My regiment went into action with an aggregate of 306. Total loss in killed, wounded, and missing, 158.

I omitted to state that Captain [E. T.] Broughton, Company C, was among the last to leave the creek, having animated his men throughout the affair with his presence and bearing. He is among the missing.

I send herewith a memorandum in detail of the casualties* as far as known.

I have the honor to be, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. B. GRANBURY,
Colonel Seventh Regiment Texas Infantry.

Capt. THOMAS W. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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* See p. 739.

MAY 14, 1863.—Engagement at Jackson, Miss.

REPORTS.*

No. 1.—Return of Casualties in the Union forces.
No. 2.—Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, Fifteenth Army Corps, including operations April 20–May 22.
No. 3.—Brig. Gen. James M. Tuttle, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, including operations May 2–22.
No. 4.—Brig. Gen. Ralph P. Buckland, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, including operations May 2–22.
No. 5.—Col. DeWitt C. Thomas, Ninety-third Indiana Infantry, including operations May 2–July 16.
No. 6.—Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry.
No. 7.—Col. Lucius F. Hubbard, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, Second Brigade, including operations May 2–22.
No. 8.—Brig. Gen. Charles L. Matthies, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, including operations May 2–22.
No. 9.—Col. Jesse I. Alexander, Fifty-ninth Indiana Infantry, First Brigade, Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, including operations May 3–24.
No. 10.—Col. Gabriel Bouck, Eighteenth Wisconsin Infantry, including operations May 13–July 6.
No. 11.—Col. Samuel A. Holmes, Tenth Missouri Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, including operations April 18–May 23.
No. 12.—Col. David B. Hillis, Seventeenth Iowa Infantry, including operations April 20–May 24.
No. 13.—Maj. Francis C. Deimling, Tenth Missouri Infantry, including operations April 20–May 23.
No. 14.—Brig. Gen. John Gregg, C. S. Army, commanding at Jackson.
No. 15.—Col. Peyton H. Colquitt, Forty-sixth Georgia Infantry, commanding Gist's brigade.

No. 1.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces engaged at Jackson, Miss., May 14, 1863.

[Compiled from nominal lists of casualties, returns, &c.]

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS.†						
Maj. Gen. WILLIAM T. SHERMAN.						
Cavalry.						
4th Iowa‡	------	------	------	------	------	------
THIRD DIVISION.						
Brig. Gen. JAMES M. TUTTLE.						
First Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. RALPH P. BUCKLAND.						
114th Illinois	------	1	------	2	------	3
93d Indiana	------	3	------	7	------	10

* See also general reports of Grant and Pemberton; battle of Port Gibson, reports of Logan and McPherson; engagement at Raymond, reports of Crocker, Sanborn, and J. E. Smith; battle of Champion's Hill (Part II), Tourtellotte's report; siege of Vicksburg (Part II), Sampson's report.

† Steele's (First) Division in reserve, and not actively engaged.

‡ No loss reported.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces engaged at Jackson, Miss., &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
First Brigade—Continued.						
72d Ohio*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
95th Ohio*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total First Brigade	.....	4	.....	9	.....	13
Second Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. JOSEPH A. MOWER.						
47th Illinois	†1	.....	.....	3	.....	4
5th Minnesota*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
11th Missouri	.....	.....	1	5	3	9
8th Wisconsin*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Second Brigade	1	.....	1	8	3	13
Third Brigade.						
Brig. Gen. CHARLES L. MATTHIES.						
8th Iowa*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
12th Iowa*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
35th Iowa	.....	1	.....	1	1	3
Total Third Brigade	.....	1	.....	1	1	3
Artillery.						
Iowa Light, 2d Battery	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
1st Illinois Light, Battery E	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Total Artillery	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	3
Total Third Division	1	5	1	21	4	32
SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.‡						
Maj. Gen. JAMES B. MCPHERSON.						
Cavalry.						
2d Illinois, Companies A and E*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
4th Missouri, Company F*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
6th Missouri	.....	1	.....	2	.....	3
Ohio 4th Independent Company*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Cavalry	.....	1	.....	2	.....	3
SEVENTH DIVISION.						
Brig. Gen. MARCELLUS M. CROCKER.						
First Brigade.						
Col. JOHN B. SANBORN.						
48th Indiana	.....	2	.....	9	.....	11
59th Indiana	.....	.....	1	3	.....	4
4th Minnesota	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
18th Wisconsin	.....	2	.....	18	.....	20
Total First Brigade	.....	4	1	32	.....	37

* No loss reported.
† Col. John N. Cromwell; killed near Jackson, May 16.
‡ Logan's (Third) division in reserve, and not actively engaged.

Return of Casualties in the Union forces engaged at Jackson, Miss., &c.—Continued.

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Enlisted men captured or missing.	Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.		
Second Brigade.						
Col. SAMUEL A. HOLMES.						
56th Illinois*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
17th Iowa	1	15	7	54	3	80
10th Missouri	.....	10	2	63	.....	75
24th Missouri, Company E	.....	.....	.....	9	.....	9
80th Ohio	.....	4	3	44	.....	51
Total Second Brigade	1	29	12	170	3	215
Third Brigade.						
Col. GEORGE B. BOOMER.						
93d Illinois	.....	1	.....	6	.....	7
5th Iowa	.....	.....	.....	4	.....	4
10th Iowa†	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
26th Missouri†	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Third Brigade	.....	1	.....	10	.....	11
Artillery.						
1st Missouri Light Artillery, Battery M†	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ohio Light Artillery, 11th Battery†	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Wisconsin Light Artillery, 6th Battery	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Wisconsin Light Artillery, 12th Battery†	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total Artillery	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	2
Total Seventh Division	1	34	13	214	3	265
Grand total	2	40	14	237	7	300

OFFICER KILLED.—Lieut. John Inskeep, 17th Iowa Infantry.

No. 2.

Report of Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, Fifteenth Army Corps, including operations April 20–May 22.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Walnut Hills, Miss., May 24, 1863.

SIR: In order to make a connected history of events preceding the final issue of this campaign, I avail myself of this the first leisure hour to give substantially the operations of the Fifteenth Army Corps since the movement began.

General Grant's orders for an advance by way of Grand Gulf were dated April 20, 1863, and gave McClernand's corps the right, McPherson's the center, and mine the left, the movement being by the right flank.

I had made all preparations for the movement, when, on the 26th, I

* Detached. † No loss reported.

received General Grant's letter from Smith's plantation, near Carthage, describing the road as so very difficult that he ordered me to delay until the roads improved or the system of canals, then in process of construction, could be finished.

Subsequently, on April 28, I received his letter, fixing the time when he proposed to attack Grand Gulf, and saying that a simultaneous feint on the enemy's batteries on the Yazoo, near Haynes' Bluff, would be most desirable, provided it could be done without the ill-effect on the army and the country of the appearance of a repulse. Knowing full well the army could distinguish a feint from a real attack by succeeding events, and assured the country would in due season recover from the effect, I made the necessary orders, and embarked on ten steamboats my Second Division (Blair's), and about 10 a. m. on April 29 proceeded to the mouth of the Yazoo, where I found the flag-boat Black Hawk, Captain Breese, U. S. Navy, with the Choctaw (just arrived) and De Kalb, iron-clads, with the Tyler and several smaller wooden boats of the fleet all ready, with steam up, prepared to co-operate in the proposed demonstrations against Haynes' Bluff. Captain Breese fully comprehended the purpose of the movement and managed the fleet admirably.

We at once proceeded up the Yazoo in order, and lay for the night of April 29 at the mouth of Chickasaw, and early next morning proceeded up within easy range of the enemy's batteries. The Choctaw led, followed by the De Kalb, she by the Tyler, she by the Black Hawk, and the fleet in order behind.

The Choctaw at once engaged the batteries at very fair range, and the De Kalb maneuvered so as to use her batteries with as little risk to her unarmored part as the circumstances warranted. The Tyler and Black Hawk also came into action, and for four hours a very pretty demonstration was kept up, when the boats engaged were called out of range. The Tyler had received one shot and the Choctaw some fifty, but, strange to say, no men were hurt. Waiting till toward evening, I ordered the division of troops to disembark in full view of the enemy and seemingly prepare to assault, but I knew full well that there was no road across the submerged field that lay between the river and the bluff. As soon as the troops were fairly out on the levee, the gunboats resumed their fire, and the enemy's batteries replied with spirit. We could see them moving guns, artillery, and infantry back and forth, and evidently expecting a real attack. Keeping up appearances till night, the troops were re-embarked. During the next day similar movements were made, accompanied by reconnaissances of all the country on both sides of the Yazoo.

While there, I received General Grant's orders to hurry forward toward Grand Gulf. Dispatching orders to the divisions of Steele and Tuttle at once to march for Grand Gulf via Richmond, I prolonged the demonstration till night, and quietly dropped back to our camp at Young's Point. No casualties were sustained save a slight wound from a splintered rail by a man of the Eighth Missouri.

Reaching Young's Point during the night of May 1, the next morning Blair's division broke camp and moved up to Milliken's Bend. At the same time Steele's division marched from Milliken's Bend and Tuttle's from Duckport, Blair's division remaining as a garrison till relieved by troops ordered from Memphis.

The march from Milliken's Bend to the plantation of Hard Times, on the west bank of the Mississippi, 4 miles above Grand Gulf, occupied until noon of May 6, distance 63 miles. We crossed over the river

during the night of the 6th and day of the 7th, and on the 8th marched 18 miles out to Hankinson's Ferry, across the Big Black, relieving Crocker's division, of McPherson's corps. At noon of the 10th, by order of General Grant, the floating bridge across the Black was effectually destroyed, and the troops marched forward to Big Sandy.

On the 11th, we marched to Auburn, and on the morning of the 12th, at Fourteen-Mile Creek, first met opposition. The Fourth Iowa Cavalry, Lieutenant-Colonel Swan commanding, leading the advance, was fired on as it approached the bridge across the creek. One man was killed and the horse of Major Winslow was shot under him.

Lieutenant-Colonel Swan dismounted the men, armed with carbines (about 100), and began to skirmish with the enemy, which afterward proved to be Wirt Adams' cavalry, but the bushes were so dense that nothing could be seen but the puffs of smoke from their guns. The bridge also was burning. Arriving at the head of the column, I ordered Landgraeber's battery forward to give the bushes a few quick rounds of canister, and Woods' brigade, of Steele's division, to cross over, its front well covered with skirmishers. This disposition soon cleared the way, and the pioneer company was put to work to make a crossing in lieu of the burned bridge.

This affair delayed us about three hours, when we crossed over just in time to see the enemy's cavalry disappear over the hill. General Grant in person was with my column at the time, and ordered me to encamp there one division (Steele's) on the Edwards Depot road and the other (Tuttle's) toward Raymond. While there we heard that the enemy had met General McPherson near Raymond and was defeated.

Next morning we marched to Raymond and passed on to Mississippi Springs, where we surprised a cavalry picket, capturing them; and on the following day, namely, May 14, pushed on to Jackson by the lower road, McPherson's corps following the Clinton road. We communicated during the night, so as to arrive at Jackson about the same hour.

During the day it rained in torrents, and the roads, which had been very dusty, became equally muddy; but we pushed on, and about 10 a. m. were within 3 miles of Jackson. Then we heard the guns of McPherson to the left, and our cavalry advance reported an enemy to our front, at a small bridge at the foot of the ridge, along which the road we traveled led.

The enemy opened on us briskly with a battery. Hastily reconnoitering the position, I ordered Mower's and Matthies' brigades, of Tuttle's division, to deploy forward to the right and left of the road, and Buckland's to close up. Waterhouse's and Spoor's batteries were placed on commanding ground and soon silenced the enemy's guns, when he retired about half a mile into the skirt of woods in front of the intrenchments at Jackson. Mower's brigade followed him up, and he soon took refuge behind the intrenchments.

The stream, owing to its precipitous banks, could only be passed on the bridge, which the enemy did not attempt to destroy, and forming the troops in similar order beyond the bridge, only that Mower's brigade, from the course he took in following the enemy, occupied the ground to the left of the road and Matthies' brigade to the right, the two batteries in the center, and Buckland's brigade in reserve.

As we emerged from the woods, to our front and as far to the left as we could see, appeared a line of intrenchments, and the enemy kept up a pretty brisk fire with artillery from the points that enfiladed our road. In order to ascertain the nature of the flanks of this line of intrenchments, I directed Captain Pitzman, acting engineer, to take a regiment

of the reserve, namely, the Ninety-fifth Ohio, and make a detour to the right to see what was there. While he was gone, Steele's division closed up. About 1 p. m. Captain Pitzman returned, reporting that he had found the enemy's intrenchments abandoned at the point where they crossed the railroad, and he had left the Ninety-fifth Ohio there in possession. I at once ordered General Steele to lead his whole division into Jackson by that route, and as soon as I heard the cheers of his men, Tuttle's division was ordered in by the main road. The enemy's infantry had escaped to the north by the Canton road, but we captured about 250 prisoners with all the enemy's artillery (eighteen guns), with much ammunition and valuable public stores.

Disposing the troops on the outskirts of the town, in obedience to a summons from General Grant, I met him and General McPherson at the hotel near the State-house, and received orders to at once occupy the line of rifle-pits, and on the following day to destroy effectually the railroad tracks in and about Jackson, and all the property belonging to the enemy. Accordingly, on the morning of May 15, Steele's division was set to work to destroy the railroad and property to the south and east, including Pearl River Bridge, and Tuttle's division that to the north and west. This work of destruction was well accomplished, and Jackson, as a railroad center or Government depot of stores and military factories, can be of little use to the enemy for six months.

The railroads were destroyed by burning the ties and warping the iron. I estimate the destruction of the roads 4 miles east of Jackson, 3 south, 3 north, and 10 west.

In Jackson the arsenal buildings, the Government foundry, the gun-carriage establishment, including the carriages for two complete six-gun batteries, stable, carpenter and paint shops were destroyed. The penitentiary was burned, I think, by some convicts who had been set free by the Confederate authorities; also a very valuable cotton factory. This factory was the property of the Messrs. Greene, who made strong appeals, based on the fact that it gave employment to very many females and poor families, and that, although it had woven cloth for the enemy, its principal use was in weaving cloth for the people; but I decided that machinery of that kind could so easily be converted into hostile uses that the United States could better afford to compensate the Messrs. Greene for their property, and feed the poor families thus thrown out of employment, than to spare the property. I therefore assured all such families if want should force them they might come to the river, where we would feed them till they could find employment or seek refuge in some more peaceful land. Other buildings were destroyed in Jackson by some mischievous soldiers (who could not be detected) which was not justified by the rules of war, including the Catholic church and Confederate Hotel—the former resulting from accidental circumstances and the latter from malice.

General Mower occupied the town with his brigade and two companies of cavalry, and maintained as much order as he could among the mass of soldiers and camp-followers that thronged the place during our short stay there; yet many acts of pillage occurred that I regret, arising from the effect of some bad rum found concealed in the stores of the town.

On the morning of the 16th, I received a note from General Grant, written at Clinton, reporting the enemy advancing from Edwards Depot, and ordering me to put in motion one of my divisions toward Bolton, and to follow with the other as soon as I had completed the work of destruction ordered.

Steele's division marched at 10 a. m., and Tuttle's followed at noon. As the march would necessarily be rapid, I ordered General Mower to parole the prisoners of war, and to evacuate Jackson as the rear of Tuttle's division passed out. I paroled these prisoners because the wounded men of McPherson's corps had been left in a hospital, in charge of Surgeon Hewitt, to the mercy of the enemy, who I knew would re-enter Jackson as we left. The whole corps marched from Jackson to Bolton, nearly 20 miles, that day, and next morning resumed the march by a road lying to the north of Baker's Creek, reaching Bridgeport, on the Big Black, at noon. There I found Blair's division and the pontoon train. The enemy had a small picket on the west bank in a rifle-pit commanding the crossing, but, on exploding a few shells over the pit, they came out and surrendered—a lieutenant and 10 men. The pontoon bridge was laid across, under the direction of Captain [H. C.] Freeman, and Blair's and Steele's divisions passed over that night, Tuttle's following next morning.

Starting with the break of day, we pushed rapidly, and by 9.30 a. m. of May 18 the head of the column reached the Benton road, and we commanded the Yazoo, interposing a superior force between the enemy at Vicksburg and his forts on the Yazoo. Resting a sufficient time to enable the column to close up, we pushed forward to the point where the road forks, and sending forward on each road the Thirteenth Regulars to the right and the Eighth Missouri to the left, with a battery at the forks, I awaited General Grant's arrival. He came up very soon, and directed me to operate on the right, McPherson on the center, and McClernand on the left. Leaving a sufficient force on the main road to hold it till McPherson came up, I pushed the head of my column on this road till the skirmishers were within musket-range of the defenses of Vicksburg. Here I disposed Blair's division to the front, Tuttle's in support, and ordered Steele's to follow a blind road to the right till he reached the Mississippi. By dark his advance was on the bluffs, and early next morning he reached the Haynes' Bluff road, getting possession of the enemy's outer works, his camps, and many prisoners left behind during their hasty evacuation, and had his pickets up within easy range of the enemy's new line of defenses, so that by 8 a. m. of May 19 we had compassed the enemy to the north of Vicksburg, our right resting on the Mississippi River, with a plain view of our fleets at the mouth of the Yazoo and Young's Point, Vicksburg in plain sight, and nothing separated us from the enemy but a space of about 400 yards of very difficult ground, cut up by almost impracticable ravines, and his line of intrenchments. I ordered the Fourth Iowa Cavalry to proceed rapidly up to Haynes' Bluff and secure possession of that place, it being perfectly open to the rear. By 4 p. m. the cavalry was on the high bluff behind, and Colonel Swan, being assured that the place had been evacuated, dispatched Captain Peters to go in and secure the place.

I inclose Colonel Swan's report,* with one from Lieutenant Clark,* from which you will see that the Fourth Iowa Cavalry first got possession of the enemy's battery (evacuated, of course, when we were in full possession of the Benton road) and delivered it over, with its guns, magazine (filled), and material, to the gunboat De Kalb, at the time (4 p. m. May 19) lying 2 miles below in Yazoo River. Also on that day communication was opened with our fleet at Young's Point and the mouth of the Yazoo, and bridges and roads made to bring up ammunition and provisions from the mouth of Chickasaw, to which point supply boats had been ordered by General Grant. Up to that time our men had

* Not found.

literally lived upon the country, having left Grand Gulf May 8 with three days' rations in their haversacks, and received little or nothing till after our arrival here on the 18th.

The several corps being in position on the 19th, General Grant ordered a general assault at 2 p. m. At that hour Blair's division moved forward, Ewing's and Giles Smith's brigades on the right of the road, and Kilby Smith's brigade on the left of the road; artillery disposed on the right and left to cover the point where the road enters the enemy's intrenchments. Tuttle's division was held on the road; Buckland's brigade deployed in line to the rear of Blair, and the other two brigades in the road under cover.

At the appointed signal the line advanced, but the ground to the right and left of the road was so impracticable, cut up in deep chasms, filled with standing and fallen timber, that the line was slow and irregular in reaching the trenches. The Thirteenth Regulars, on the left of Giles Smith, reaching the works first, planted its colors on the exterior slope. Its commander, Captain Washington, was mortally wounded, and 5 other officers were wounded more or less severely. Seventy-seven out of 250 are reported killed or wounded. Two other regiments reached the same position about the same time—the Eighty-third Indiana, Colonel Spooner, and the One hundred and twenty-seventh Illinois, Colonel Eldridge. They held their ground, and fired upon any head that presented itself above the parapet, but it was impossible to enter. Other regiments gained position to the right and left close up to the parapet, but night found them outside the works, unsuccessful. As soon as night closed in, I ordered them back a short distance, where the shape of the ground gave them partial shelter, to bivouac for the night.

The 20th and 21st instant were consumed in perfecting our system of supplies, opening roads, and putting our artillery in new and more commanding positions, but we could see the enemy similarly employed. During these days our pickets were kept up close, and the enemy was kept uneasy by the appearance of assault at several points.

On the 21st, General Grant issued his orders for a general assault by all the army at 10 a. m. on the 22d, the assault to be rapid by the heads of columns. I placed Blair's division at the head of the road, Tuttle's in support, and left General Steele to make his attack at a point in his front about half a mile to the right. The troops were grouped so that the movement could be connected and rapid. The road lies on the crown of an inferior ridge, rises over comparatively smooth ground along the edge of the ditch of the right face of the enemy's bastion, and enters the parapet at the shoulder of the bastion. No men could be seen in the enemy's works, except occasionally a sharpshooter would show his head and quickly discharge his piece. A line of select skirmishers was placed to keep them down; also a volunteer storming party of about 150 men, carrying boards and poles to cross the ditch. This, with a small interval, was followed by Ewing's brigade; his by Giles Smith's, and Kilby Smith's bringing up the rear of Blair's division.

All marched by the flank, following a road selected the night before, by which the men were partially sheltered until it was necessary to take the crown of the ridge and expose themselves to the full view of the enemy, known to be lying concealed behind his well-planned parapet. At the very minute named in General Grant's orders, the storming party dashed up the road at the double-quick, followed by Ewing's brigade, the Thirtieth Ohio leading. The artillery of Wood's, Barrett's, Waterhouse's, Spoor's, and Hart's batteries kept a concentric fire on the bastion, which was doubtless constructed to command this very approach.

The storming party reached the salient of the bastion and passed toward the sally port, when rose, from every part commanding it, a double rank of the enemy, that poured on the head of the column a terrific fire. It halted, wavered, and sought cover. The rear pressed on, but the fire was so terrific that very soon all sought cover.

The head of the column crossed the ditch of the left face of the bastion and climbed upon the exterior slope, where the colors were planted, and the men burrowed in the earth to shield themselves from the flank fire. The leading brigade of Ewing being unable to carry that point, the next brigade of Giles Smith was turned down a ravine, and by a circuit to the left found cover, formed line, and threatened the parapet about 300 yards to the left of the bastion, and the brigade of Kilby Smith deployed on the off slope of one of the spurs, where, with Ewing's brigade, they kept up a constant fire against any object that presented itself above the parapet.

About 2 p. m. General Blair reported to me that none of his brigades could pass the point of the road swept by the terrific fire encountered by Ewing's, but that Giles Smith had got a position to the left, in connection with General Ransom, of McPherson's corps, and was ready to assault.

I ordered a constant fire of artillery and infantry to be kept up to occupy the attention of the enemy in our front. Under these circumstances Ransom's and Giles Smith's brigades charged up against the parapet, but also met a staggering fire, before which they recoiled under cover of the hillside.

At the same time, while McPherson's whole corps was engaged, and having heard General McClernand's report to General Grant read, that he had taken three of the enemy's forts, and that his flags floated on the stronghold of Vicksburg, I ordered General Tuttle to send directly to the assault one of his brigades. He detailed General Mower's, and while General Steele was hotly engaged on the right, and I could hear heavy firing all down the line to my left, I ordered their charge, covered in like manner by Blair's division, deployed on the hillside, and the artillery posted behind parapets within point-blank range.

General Mower carried his brigade up bravely and well, but again arose a fire more severe, if possible, than that of the first assault, with exactly a similar result. The colors of the leading regiment, the Eleventh Missouri, were planted by the side of that of Blair's storming party, and remained there till withdrawn after nightfall by my orders.

McClernand's report of success must have been premature, for I subsequently learned that both his and McPherson's assaults had failed to break through the enemy's line of intrenchments, and were equally unsuccessful as my own.

At the time we were so hotly engaged along the road, General Steele, with his division, made his assault at a point about midway from the bastion and Mississippi River. The ground over which he passed was more open and exposed to the flank fire of the enemy's batteries in position, and was deeply cut up by gullies and washes; still, his column passed steadily through this fire and reached the parapet, which was also found to be well manned and defended by the enemy. He could not carry the works, but held possession of the hillside till night, when he withdrew his command to his present position. These several assaults, made simultaneously, demonstrated the strength of the natural and artificial defenses of Vicksburg, that they are garrisoned by a strong force, and that we must resort to regular approaches.

Our loss during the day was severe, and the proportion of dead to

wounded exceeds the usual ratio. The loss in my corps for the attack of May 22 will not fall much short of 600 killed and wounded.

Our skirmishers still remain close up to the enemy's works, while the troops are retired a short distance in the ravines, which afford good cover. Strong working parties are kept employed in opening roads to the rear and preparing covered roads to the front. By taking advantage of the shape of the ground, I think we can advance our works to within 100 yards of the redoubt which commands the road, after which the regular sap must be resorted to. Captain Jenney, engineer of my staff, has organized the parties, and will set to work immediately at two distinct points, one in Blair's and the other in Steele's front.

Our position is now high, healthy, and good. We are in direct and easy communication with our supplies, and the troops continue to manifest the same cheerful spirit which has characterized them throughout this whole movement.

I have as yet received no detailed reports of my division commanders. Indeed, our means of transportation have been so limited and our time so constantly employed that but little writing has been done; but as soon as possible I will supply you with accurate reports of all the details of events herein sketched, with names of killed and wounded, and the names of such officers and men as deserve mention for special acts of zeal and gallantry.

I have sent in about 500 prisoners, with lists of their names, rank, regiments, &c., and now inclose the papers relating to those paroled at Jackson, Miss.*

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

Lieut. Col. JOHN A. RAWLINS, *A. A. G., Dept. of the Tennessee.*

No. 3.

Report of Brig. Gen. James M. Tuttle, U. S. Army, commanding Third Division, including operations May 2–22.

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Walnut Hills, Miss., May 23, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report the part taken by my command in the movement that has resulted in the investment of Vicksburg up to the present time.

We left our camp at Duckport, La., on the Mississippi River, on the morning of May 2, with three days' rations, and proceeded to Richmond, La., by way of the new road down Willow and Walnut Bayous. Owing to the bad state of the roads, we made but 8 miles the first day, and bivouacked on the margin of Willow Bayou.

May 3, we marched 15 miles to Richmond.

May 4, we marched to Smith's plantation, 18 miles.

May 5, we reached Perkins' plantation, 12 miles, at noon. There we drew two days' rations and bivouacked for the night.

On the 6th, we marched 13 miles, and bivouacked, after crossing the pontoon bridges, at the outlet of Lake Saint Joseph.

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* Omitted

May 7, we marched 7 miles, to Hard Times Landing, and during the afternoon and night crossed the troops and ambulances on transports to Grand Gulf, Miss.

May 8, we left Grand Gulf, without transportation, loaded all the ambulances with what ammunition they could carry, and marched 15 miles to Willow Springs.

May 9, we spent the forenoon in foraging, finding an abundance of beef-cattle, sheep, hogs, corn, molasses, &c., and three mills in the neighborhood, which we immediately put in operation, grinding corn for the troops. At 4 p. m. we marched to Rocky Springs, 8 miles, where we bivouacked until the morning of the 11th.

May 11, we marched 13 miles to the forks of the road where the Clinton road bears to the left. On that day we passed through the camp of the corps which had preceded us, and at night bivouacked with the First Division of this corps in the advance.

May 12, we marched 7 miles, crossing Fourteen-Mile Creek.

May 13, this division taking the advance, marched via Raymond to a plantation 1 mile west of Mississippi Springs, where we encountered the enemy's pickets. After a brisk firing for a few minutes between them and my advance guard, I ordered the leading brigade, General Mower commanding, to deploy on the right of the road, and the next, General Matthies commanding, on the left, holding the other, General Buckland's, in reserve. In this position we advanced about one-fourth of a mile, and, finding no enemy in force, bivouacked for the night, my advance guard occupying Mississippi Springs.

May 14, I filed the troops into the road at daylight, and, after marching about 1 mile, encountered a small party of the enemy, which were driven before us by our advance guard, skirmishing at intervals until we were within 2½ miles of Jackson, where we encountered a heavier force with artillery, which immediately opened on us. I ordered the Second Iowa Battery into a commanding position, with General Mower's brigade to support it on the right of the road and Waterhouse's battery on the left, with General Matthies' brigade to support.

After a brisk cannonading for half an hour, the enemy's battery was silenced, when I ordered an immediate advance in line, General Buckland's brigade in reserve. We drove the enemy before us until the artillery from the works around Jackson opened a brisk fire upon us.

After reconnoitering the position for a short time, by direction of General Sherman, the Ninety-fifth Ohio Regiment was sent to reconnoiter to the right, and entered the enemy's works at a point where the railroad enters the town; and, after waiting for General Steele's advance to come up to the same point, they advanced to the rear of the guns that were playing on us and captured ten of them, together with all the gunners, about 150 in number. We then marched into the town without further opposition.

The loss of this division up to this time was 5 killed and 21 wounded.

May 15, in accordance with directions of the major-general commanding the corps, General Mower's brigade was placed on duty as provost-guard, and General Mower commanding post. General Buckland's brigade was employed in destroying the railroad running west and General Matthies' brigade the one running north from that place.

May 16, we left Jackson at 12 m. for Vicksburg, marching to Bolton, 20 miles, the rear of my command arriving there at 2 a. m. next day.

May 17, we started at 4.30 a. m. and marched to Bridgeport, on Big Black River, 13 miles.

May 18, we crossed Big Black River on the pontoon bridge, and arrived at night near the position now occupied by my command, in the rear of Vicksburg. In disposing the forces of this corps, my command was selected by the major-general commanding as the reserve division of the corps, and consequently did not participate in the attack made on the 19th instant.

May 20 and 21, I occupied the same position as at the present, with the exception of a reconnaissance made by General Matthies' brigade on the 19th in the direction of Chickasaw Bayou, for the purpose of opening communication with the Yazoo River. Finding no force of the enemy in that vicinity, the brigade returned on the morning of the 20th instant.

In the charge made on the morning of the 22d instant, my division took no part, but word having been received in the afternoon that the forces on the left were in the enemy's works, General Mower's brigade was ordered to charge the fortifications in our front, which it did in most gallant style, the Eleventh Regiment Missouri Volunteers leading. The ground being so uneven, and the fire of the enemy well concentrated and heavy, they were compelled to fall back without being able to make a lodgment in his works, although Colonel Weber and quite a number of his men reached the ditches, from which they found it impossible to drive the enemy. The brigade was withdrawn at night in good order.

The officers and men of the Eleventh Missouri and the Forty-seventh Illinois Regiments behaved with signal courage and gallantry, these two being the only regiments that were under the heaviest fire.

Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Mower led the charge in person, and displayed great coolness and bravery. Colonel Weber, of the Eleventh Missouri, also distinguished himself for the same qualities, leading the charging column. Lieutenant-Colonel Baker also behaved gallantly.

I wish particularly to call attention to the conduct of Sergt. John Watts, of Company A, Forty-seventh Illinois Regiment, who, when his captain and second lieutenant had deserted them, rallied the men as they hesitated under a terrific fire, and by waving his hat and cheering succeeded in moving them forward in gallant style, himself leading. I most respectfully recommend that the captain of the company, John T. Bowen, be dismissed, and Sergeant Watts commissioned to fill the place.

I tender my thanks to Brigadier-Generals Buckland, Mower, and Matthies for the zeal, efficiency, and military ability displayed by them throughout the entire march; also to my personal staff, Maj. J. D. McClure, chief of staff; Capt. J. B. Sample, assistant adjutant-general; Capt. N. T. Spoor, chief of artillery, and Lieut. C. J. Dickey, assistant commissary of musters and acting aide-de-camp, for zeal and efficiency on the march and during the engagements. I would also make most honorable mention of Capt. A. C. Waterhouse, Company E, First Illinois Artillery; Lieuts. J. R. and C. F. Reed, Second Iowa Battery, and the other officers and men of those two batteries, for coolness and bravery under fire.

The killed, wounded, and missing of this command to this date, as per my official statement of casualties, are as follows: Killed, 27; wounded, 206, and missing, 43.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. TUTTLE,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Capt. R. M. SAWYER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Fifteenth Army Corps.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Walnut Hills, Miss., June 8, 1863.

In forwarding this report of General Tuttle, I heartily sanction and indorse his specific recommendation that Capt. John T. Bowen, of Company A, Forty-seventh Illinois, be mustered out of service, and Sergt. John Watts, of same company, be commissioned as captain. Moments such as existed when General Mower's brigade charged in column across the exposed ridge develop the true soldierly qualities, which the sergeant is reported to have signally displayed at the expense of his captain.

General Tuttle's division is entitled to special notice for the orderly behavior of his men on the march and the promptness with which all details were made and orders executed. His brigadier-generals, Buckland, Mower, and Matthies, were always noticed by me during the march and events recorded by General Tuttle, and I commend them all for the faithful and earnest discharge of their important duties. I feel assured that honors and labor enough await them in the events still to occur before this campaign closes.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

No. 4.

Report of Brig. Gen. Ralph P. Buckland, U. S. Army, commanding First Brigade, including operations May 2–22.

HDQRS. 1ST BRIGADE, 3D DIVISION, 15TH ARMY CORPS,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., June 8, 1863.

SIR: In pursuance of directions from division headquarters, I have the honor to submit the following report of this brigade from the 2d to the 22d of May, inclusive:

As this brigade was not separated from the division in the march from Duckport to Jackson, Miss., it is not deemed necessary to give in detail each day's march.

We commenced our march from Duckport at 10 a. m. May 2, with two teams to the regiment, taking five days' rations in haversacks and teams, and 100 rounds of ammunition per man in cartouch-boxes and teams, leaving tents, baggage, and all but very few cooking utensils behind. We reached Hard Times and crossed over to Grand Gulf on the 7th, but were not able to cross our teams, which contained all the rations we had.

During the night word was sent to me that the commissary was prepared to issue rations of hard bread, &c., but when applied for early in the morning all the hard bread had been issued to the other brigades, reserving none for mine. Notwithstanding this unjustifiable conduct of the commissary, when the command "forward" was given, every man was in his place, and my brigade moved promptly forward, without transportation and with empty haversacks, not knowing where the next meal was to come from. Other troops having gone before us, it was difficult to procure provisions on the road. Every effort was made to supply the deficiency, but many of the officers and men suffered extreme hunger.

We encamped that night at Willow Springs, where we remained

until 4 p. m. the next day. A plenty of fresh meat was procured, but very little meal, not enough for one-tenth part of the command. Having no cooking utensils, the soldiers cooked their meat on sticks and as best they could. We reached Rocky Springs some time after dark on the evening of the 9th, where we remained until the morning of the 11th. Here the commissary brought up some rations of hard bread and meat, and issued three-fifth rations for three days. This scanty supply of hard bread was a great relief and a great luxury for the soldiers, who renewed their march on the morning of the 11th, refreshed and in fine spirits.

At Cayuga the Ninety-fifth Ohio, Colonel McMillen, was ordered to Hall's Ferry, on the Black River, to guard that crossing, but the road the colonel was directed to take took him to Baldwin's Ferry, where he found a few of the enemy's pickets, which he drove across the river. Colonel McMillen returned to the brigade with his regiment on the evening of the 13th, having made about 12 miles extra marching, which was very severe on his men.

May 14.—To-day, according to the regular programme of the march, my brigade was entitled to lead, but, by order of General Sherman, General Mower took the advance and my brigade the rear, General Tuttle's division being in advance of General Steele's. On the march, Waterhouse's battery, which had been assigned to my brigade, was ordered forward, and, when the advance encountered the enemy's skirmishers near Jackson, was ordered into position. My brigade was ordered into line of battle in the rear of the Third Brigade, and advanced in line across an open field, crossing a ravine, which proved to be deeper than was supposed. After crossing the ravine, General Sherman ordered the brigade to follow the batteries by the right flank. The batteries being again ordered into position, the Seventy-second Ohio was ordered to take position on the right, and the other regiments to support the batteries on the center and left. This point was in range of the enemy's batteries, which were served with admirable precision.

Here the Ninety-third Indiana had 2 men killed and 8 wounded, 1 mortally—since dead; the One hundred and fourteenth Illinois, 1 killed and 2 wounded; Waterhouse's battery, 2 wounded. This was the first time these two regiments had been under fire, but officers and men behaved with the coolness of veterans. Not a man left his post. Colonel McMillen, with the Ninety-fifth Ohio, was ordered to reconnoiter the enemy's position on the right, where he found the enemy's rifle-pits unoccupied, and thereupon marched into the city and to the rear of the enemy's batteries, taking them by surprise. Colonel McMillen captured 6 guns, 1 captain, 3 first lieutenants, 2 second lieutenants, and 46 enlisted men. The Ninety-fifth Ohio had the honor of being the first to enter the capital of Mississippi. Having marched my brigade within the enemy's works, I was ordered to encamp in a grove near the road leading out of the city westward. We went into camp, and the men had got pretty comfortably fixed for drying their clothes, having marched most of the day in a drenching rain, when I received an order to post my brigade along the rifle-pits, in position to man them in case of an attack. This was pretty hard for men who had marched all day in the rain, with very little to eat, the rain still continuing at intervals. The order was obeyed, and submitted to with less complaint than might have been expected under the circumstances. The next morning my brigade was ordered to proceed at once to destroy the railroad leading from Jackson to Vicksburg. We had not a tool of any description, and could procure none from the provost-marshal. I borrowed four axes of Waterhouse's bat-

tery, one for each regiment, and took up my line of march in accordance with orders, trusting to luck for tools and rations. Passing through a rebel camp we had the good luck to find five or six axes and as many picks, and with these we commenced the work of destruction, and before night we had completely destroyed several miles of the road. We encamped that night about 4 miles from Jackson, surrounding our camp with a chain of pickets. During the day I sent out a foraging party, who collected an abundance of cattle and sheep; but we had no bread. The next morning we renewed the work of destruction, proceeding toward Clinton, which point we reached a little after noon, and awaited the arrival of the division, having totally destroyed about 6 miles of railroad by piling up the ties, laying the rails across, and burning them. At Clinton the regimental teams joined the brigade with ammunition and a very small supply of hard bread. We did not get into camp that night until some time after midnight, and were ordered to be ready to march at daylight.

We arrived in the vicinity of our present position on the afternoon of the 18th, the Ninety-third Indiana, Colonel Thomas, being ordered to take a position on the direct road to Vicksburg, and hold it until relieved by the advance of General McPherson's corps. Colonel Thomas was relieved and joined the brigade during the night.

At 2 p. m. on the 19th, I was ordered forward to support General Blair in his charge upon the enemy's works. I advanced my brigade by the right flank, according to orders, the Seventy-second Ohio leading, the other regiments following closely, as follows: Ninety-fifth Ohio, One hundred and fourteenth Illinois, Ninety-third Indiana. I was directed by a staff officer of General Blair to the position I was to occupy, who directed to put three regiments on the right and one on the left of the road. I advanced with the head of my column along the road, under a severe fire of musketry from the enemy, to the position indicated. Just as the three leading regiments had got over to the right of the road, General Blair sent word that he wanted two regiments on the right and two on the left, which necessitated the crossing of the One hundred and fourteenth Illinois over to the left, under a heavy fire from the enemy. The movement was made by Colonel Judy in gallant style, with a loss of 1 man killed and 9 wounded, 2 mortally—since dead. The Seventy-second Ohio had 1 man killed and 12 wounded, Lieutenant-Colonel Crockett, commanding, being himself slightly wounded. The Ninety-fifth Ohio had 2 men wounded. The Ninety-third Indiana, on this day, had 1 man killed and 5 wounded.

My brigade was in position as follows: The Seventy-second Ohio along the ridge, left resting on the road; the Ninety-fifth Ohio in rear of the Seventy-second; the One hundred and fourteenth Illinois along the ridge, right resting on the road; and the Ninety-third Indiana along the ridge, on the left of the One hundred and fourteenth.

About dusk, General Blair's troops, in advance, retired, leaving no troops in the advance of my brigade. I immediately ordered pickets and guards to be thrown out to the front.

My brigade remained in this position, being the advance at this point, until the evening of the 21st, when my brigade was withdrawn, except the Ninety-third Indiana, which did not withdraw until the morning of the 22d.

From the evening of the 19th until the evening of the 21st, my brigade maintained this front line, keeping up a constant fire of sharpshooters during the day and throwing forward guards at night, and having several men killed and wounded.

On the 22d, my brigade was again ordered to support the troops of General Blair. The Seventy-second Ohio was ordered to take position on the left of the advance of Col. Kilby Smith's brigade, where it remained until evening, when it rejoined the brigade, which had taken position on the same ridge, on the left of the road, previously occupied by the One hundred and fourteenth and Ninety-third.

I send herewith a full statement of the casualties of my brigade at Jackson on the 14th, and at Vicksburg on the 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22d, showing—

Killed	9
Wounded	61
Missing	2
Total	72

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Colonel McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio; Colonel Judy, One hundred and fourteenth Illinois; Colonel Thomas, Ninety-third Indiana, and Lieutenant-Colonel Crockett, Seventy-second Ohio, for the able and prompt manner in which they have performed their duties, and through them also to the officers and men under their command.

I am proud of my brigade. During this long and tedious march not in a single instance has any regiment been behind time. My thanks are also due to my staff officers for the faithful performance of their duties.

I must here say a word in praise of the line officers of the brigade. Deprived of all transportation, even for provisions, they have endured fatigue and hunger without complaint, setting a noble example which has had a beneficial influence upon the conduct of the men. Upon this subject I refer to the report of Lieutenant-Colonel Crockett, Seventy-second Ohio Volunteers. I venture to say that, owing to circumstances beyond my control, my brigade suffered more from the want of food than any other in this army; yet I doubt whether any reached the end of the march in better condition or better spirits. I repeat, I am proud of my brigade.

Respectfully submitted.

R. P. BUCKLAND,
Brigadier-General, Commanding First Brigade.

Capt. J. B. SAMPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 5.

Report of Col. DeWitt C. Thomas, Ninety-third Indiana Infantry, including operations May 2–July 16.

MARKHAM'S PLANTATION, MISS.,
August 9, 1863.

GENTLEMEN: In accordance with General Orders, No. 64, Headquarters Fifteenth Army Corps, I herewith submit my condensed report of the different engagements, and the part my regiment has taken in them.

I left Duckport, La., on the 2d day of May, with five days' rations in my men's haversacks and wagons, and one hundred rounds of ammunition per man, two wagons being allowed for transportation. I left Grand Gulf on the 8th of May, without transportation or rations. On

the third day after leaving Grand Gulf, I received three-fifths rations of crackers for my men (having been four days without bread). From that time until I arrived at Clinton, on our return from Jackson, I did not receive any rations from the Government, but had to rely upon the country for provisions, which you, gentlemen, have a good idea as to the amount we received.

We arrived at Jackson on the 14th day of May, my men being very much fatigued (it having rained all day incessantly). Our brigade (the First, General Buckland commanding), being in the reserve, formed line of battle in the rear of the Second (General Mower's). When we received the fire of the enemy, the Second Brigade was deployed to the right and left of the road, the First Brigade coming up in the center to the support of Waterhouse's battery. My regiment being in column, and in direct range of the enemy's battery, suffered considerably from the shells. Although they were exploding incessantly for over an hour, my men and officers stood like old veterans, the shell doing execution at every explosion. (I make this remark on account of this being the first fire my regiment was under.)

My loss in killed and wounded in this engagement was 3 killed and 7 wounded. One of my men had his leg taken off by a shell, and was left at Jackson, and is now at Richmond, Va.

We arrived at Vicksburg on the evening of the 18th. My regiment took position on the main Vicksburg road, and held the position until I was relieved by General Ransom (of General McPherson's corps) at midnight.

On the 19th, our division acted as a reserve to General Blair's division. At 2 o'clock we moved forward on the road leading to the large bastion in front of the Fifteenth Army Corps, under a very heavy fire of musketry, grape, &c. I took position on the crest of the hill next in front of the bastion on the left of the road, and on the left of the One hundred and fourteenth Illinois Regiment, its right resting on the road, my left extending to the right of General McPherson's corps. While getting into this position, I had 1 man killed and 2 wounded.

About 11 or 12 o'clock the night of the 19th, I was notified by an officer from the brigade in my front, belonging to General Blair's division, that they were moving out, and ordered me to place outpickets in my front next the intrenchments, which I did, and continued so to do until the morning of the 22d, when I was ordered to report to the brigade in the rear, it having withdrawn the evening previous from my right.

On the morning of the 22d, I again moved forward immediately in a hollow in the rear of my position on the 19th. Laid there one night and day, when our brigade was moved to the rear of Waterhouse's and Second Iowa Batteries, when I furnished from one to two companies a day as sharpshooters and 150 men as diggers.

My loss in killed and wounded at Vicksburg was 3 killed and 13 wounded.

On the morning of the 22d of June, I took up line of march for Little Bear Creek, and on the 4th of July I was again on the move for Jackson, via Messinger's Ford. Crossed the river in the evening of the 6th. My regiment was sent forward as skirmishers, accompanied by two companies from the brigade. After firing a few shots, the enemy disappeared.

Arrived at Jackson on the 10th. Formed a line of battle in an open field in the rear of Waterhouse's battery. While in this position the batteries in the large bastion on the Jackson road, and especially the big gun, troubled us a great deal, and also the unexploded shell fired at

Waterhouse's battery, by striking in and around my regiment, but the men, as before, at Jackson, stood firm and unflinching.

I held this position until the evening of the 15th, when the First Brigade was ordered to relieve a brigade of General Osterhaus' division on the right, which was done at 9 p. m. same evening. The next morning General Sherman ordered our pickets to advance on the enemy's works, he having information that the enemy were evacuating. We soon found that this was not the case. Company E, Captain McGrayel, of my regiment, participated in the advance and acquitted himself with great credit. The position my regiment occupied was very much exposed, but the men and officers sustained themselves as heretofore with great credit.

My loss at this fight at Jackson was 1 killed and 3 wounded; making a total since crossing the Mississippi of 30 wounded and 7 killed.

D. C. THOMAS,
Colonel, Commanding Ninety-third Indiana.

General EWING,
Colonels WILLIAMS and BLOOD.

No. 6.

Report of Col. William L. McMillen, Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry.

JACKSON, MISS., *May* 15, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the part taken by the Ninety-fifth Ohio Volunteers in the engagement at this place yesterday:

We reached the field of action with the balance of the brigade, and deployed, by order of Colonel Buckland, on the left of the road leading into Jackson. We advanced in line for some distance, and then by the flank to within a mile of the city, at which point my regiment was ordered to make a reconnaissance, under the direction of one of General Sherman's staff. Deploying one company as skirmishers, we advanced to the right of our line until we struck the New Orleans Railroad, and then along that road toward the city, taking possession of a rebel camp and a long line of rifle-pits, both of which we found deserted. Here I formed in line, and planted my colors in full view of the city. Learning from a negro who came to me that the place had been evacuated, with the exception of a small number left to work a battery which was playing at the time on our main column, and ascertaining from him also its position, I moved my regiment rapidly through a street in the suburbs and gained its rear. Deploying one wing as skirmishers, and forming the other in line, I advanced, capturing the battery (nine pieces), 52 prisoners, consisting of 1 captain, 3 first lieutenants, 2 second lieutenants, and 46 non-commissioned officers and privates, and about 40 stand of arms.

A list of the prisoners is herewith forwarded. I am happy to state that I met with no casualties, and cannot speak in too high terms of the bravery, gallantry, and endurance displayed by every officer and man of my regiment.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. McMILLEN,
Colonel, Commanding.

Lieut. E. A. RAWSON,
A. A. A. G., 1st Brigade, 3d Division, 15th Army Corps.

No. 7.

Report of Col. Lucius F. Hubbard, Fifth Minnesota Infantry, Second Brigade, including operations May 2–22.

WALNUT HILLS,
Near Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor to submit, for the information of your department, the following details of the part sustained by the Fifth Minnesota Infantry in the movements of the late campaign in this department, which have culminated in the thorough investment of the rebel Gibraltar and its garrison at Vicksburg:

On the 2d instant, the Third Division of the Fifteenth Army Corps, of which the Fifth Minnesota forms a part, left camp at Duckport, near Young's Point, La., and marched, via Richmond, to Hard Times Landing, crossing the river at the latter place to Grand Gulf, Miss., on the 7th instant. From thence we took the road toward Jackson, arriving at Raymond, 12 miles from the State capital, at about noon of the 13th instant. Here the Fifth Minnesota was ordered to the front, with instructions to skirmish along the road and through the timber upon either flank, to feel for the enemy's outposts, and clear the way for the column to pass. We advanced about 4 miles before meeting obstructions, when a considerable body of rebel cavalry was encountered advantageously posted in a piece of woods in our front, from whence we received a sharp volley of musketry. I here deployed the entire regiment as skirmishers upon the right and left of the road, Lieutenant-Colonel Gere commanding the left wing. The enemy retired rapidly as we advanced, offering little resistance to our progress. I moved the line of skirmishers forward to Mississippi Springs, 1½ miles, a point where several important pikes form a junction, and where I was ordered to halt, picket the roads, and bivouac for the night. The main column had halted and bivouacked where the enemy had been first encountered.

At daylight on the morning of the 14th, I was ordered to continue in the advance, and push forward on the Jackson road. A considerable body of the enemy had bivouacked the preceding night within one-half mile of my line of pickets, which retired as we moved forward. Owing to the broken and wooded nature of the country, and the known proximity of the enemy, we were required to move slowly and with extreme caution. For a distance of more than 5 miles I was required to keep in front of the column a strong line of skirmishers, consisting of three companies, which frequently encountered and exchanged volleys with the skirmishers of the enemy. When within perhaps 2 miles of Jackson, a determined stand was made, and a hot fire opened upon us from a full battery of artillery, supported by a strong line of infantry. At this juncture I was ordered by Major-General Sherman to deploy the balance of the regiment as skirmishers, covering the column while it should form in line, and penetrate forward as far as possible into a piece of timber in which the enemy was posted. As soon as the column had deployed, the skirmishers were recalled, and the regiment took its position with the Second Brigade in the front line of battle. We then advanced and charged through the timber at double-quick, the enemy rapidly retiring within his intrenchments near the precinct of the town. Here he made another stand, and obstinately disputed our farther progress. The fight continued for more than an hour, but was confined principally to artillery, the infantry occupying a position of shelter. At about 5 p. m. the order "forward" was given. All supposing

we were about to assault the enemy's works in our front, with bayonets fixed and with exultant shouts the line moved forward at a run. It was soon discovered, however, that the enemy had evacuated, and that the charge would be a bloodless one. The enemy had made a precipitate exit from the town, leaving all his artillery to fall an easy capture into our hands.

It had rained furiously all day. The men were very weary and thoroughly wet, having been not only exposed to the storm but required to wade streams and penetrate dense thickets through almost impassable swamps while skirmishing the country through which the column passed. They had also been almost entirely without rations for twenty-four hours; yet not a man straggled to the rear, nor did a syllable of complaint pass their lips. Their heroic endurance of privation and exposure and unexceptionable good conduct in action elicited from the general commanding, under whose immediate eye they had acted, encomiums of a most flattering character.

The Fifth Minnesota, with the balance of the Second Brigade, was assigned to duty as provost guard of the city of Jackson, and quarters assigned them in the Capitol Square. Each individual man seemed to feel it to be the proudest day of his life as the old flag of our regiment was unfurled to the breeze in the capital city of the rebel President's own State. Even the tattered and faded emblem itself seemed to feel inspired by the occasion, and shook its folds more grandly than ever as a response to the scornful glances of the conquered traitors of this rebellious capital.

On the afternoon of the 16th, Jackson was evacuated and the column marched toward Vicksburg, arriving in front of the rebel works on the 19th instant.

We here lay quietly in bivouac until the morning of the 22d, when a general assault was ordered upon the fortifications of the place. The regiment was exposed to a musketry fire for several hours during the fore part of the day, but fortunately escaped casualty. At about 4 p. m. the Second Brigade was ordered to make a charge upon a strong point in the defenses, where a similar attempt had met with repulse in the morning.

The broken nature of the country and inaccessible character of the position made it necessary that the storming column should move by the flank. The position of the Fifth Minnesota was upon the left of the brigade, hence was the fourth regiment in the column. This circumstance saved the regiment from a fearful slaughter, for as the head of the column emerged from the cover of the timber and passed an open space leading to the work, it was met and literally melted down by a terrific fire of musketry and artillery, the latter double-shotted with canister and grape. From my position, within range, along the whole line of defenses a fire was concentrated upon this point, where the column must pass.

Within probably the space of a minute the brigade lost upward of 200 men, principally sustained by the leading regiment. The Fifth Minnesota lost but 2. The general commanding the brigade at once declared it futile to attempt to move the column on. The road had been blocked up with the dead and wounded. The right of the column had become shattered and was in disorder. The parts of regiments left were ordered into a ravine, where they rallied under cover, while the Fifth Minnesota, in good order and with but 2 men missing, filed down the ravine, where the nature of the ground afforded complete shelter.

Nothing could exceed the coolness and steady courage of the regi-

ment as it marched up to the assault. None faltered or seemed weak with fear, but each man's countenance bespoke a determination to do or die, and had it not been ordered otherwise I believe every man would have passed the fearful place or lain his body on the way.

Great credit is due to Lieutenant-Colonel Gere and to the officers of the regiment generally, both at Jackson and Vicksburg, for their efforts in preserving order among the men and for their examples of personal daring and gallantry in action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. F. HUBBARD,
Colonel, Commanding.

Colonel MALMROS,
Adjutant-General, Minnesota.

No. 8.

Report of Brig. Gen. Charles L. Matthies, U. S. Army, commanding Third Brigade, including operations May 2–22.

HDQRS. 3D BRIGADE, 3D DIVISION, 15TH ARMY CORPS,
Walnut Hills, Miss., June 1, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following reports:

1. From the day the brigade left Duckport, La., until the day of the commencement of the siege of Vicksburg.

In obedience to orders of division headquarters, this brigade, formed by the Eighth, Twelfth, and Thirty-fifth Regiments Iowa Infantry, left camp, Duckport, La., May 2, at 9 a. m. Owing to the bad state of the road, our movement was much delayed that day. We bivouacked 10 miles from Richmond.

Reached Richmond May 3, at 4 p. m., leaving camp on the 4th, at 6 a. m. Nothing impeded our march, the roads being good. We reached Hard Times Landing May 7, at 10 a. m.

After a short delay at that place, the Eighth Iowa Infantry was transported on a gunboat, and the Twelfth and Thirty-fifth Iowa on a small transport boat, across the Mississippi River to Grand Gulf, Miss. Remained in camp until May 8, at 11 a. m., and, after drawing three days' rations, we marched without interruption. We made camp 10 miles from Grand Gulf.

Advanced to Rocky Springs on May 9; rested over on Sunday, the 10th; bivouacked on the 11th, 9 miles from Edwards Depot; bivouacked on the 12th in line of battle; passed Raymond at 4 p. m.; formed line of battle 3 miles east of Raymond, the brigade on the left of the Second Iowa Battery; advanced in the whole line in good order, and bivouacked for the night 3 miles west of Mississippi Springs.

May 14, at 5 a. m., the brigade advanced toward Jackson, following the Second Brigade.

The most drenching rain, which poured down on our men and flooded the roads, made this last march very fatiguing. Sharp firing was heard during this march toward our left. The men felt cheerful, and soon reached an elevation 3 miles west of Jackson, where, by order of Major-General Sherman, the brigade was placed on the left of Captain Waterhouse's battery. Changed this position again, by order of General

Tuttle, and was formed on the left of the Second Brigade, which was advancing into line of battle on one of the main roads toward Jackson. Here the brigade was halted, and was ordered by Major-General Sherman into line on the right of the Second Iowa Battery, which was placed on the left of the main road, near the enemy's works. Skirmishers thrown out to the front soon entered the rebel rifle-pits, and two companies from the Eighth Iowa Infantry established a connection with the Ninety-fifth Ohio Infantry, which occupied the rebel rifle-pits on my left. Several shells, which were thrown from the rebel works over my line, endangered the lives of Major-Generals Grant and Sherman, whose headquarters were established in front of a small cottage in the immediate rear of my brigade.

The order of advance was given by General Tuttle to "move on the works." We only proceeded 50 paces, when the brigade was ordered to march by the right flank on the right of the road toward town, the enemy having evacuated. The brigade was then ordered by General Tuttle to occupy the rifle-pits on the southwest side of the town. During the afternoon we captured 12 rebel prisoners.

On Monday (15th), in obedience to orders from division and army corps headquarters, I moved with my brigade 5 miles on the railroad leading north out of Jackson, and destroyed 3 miles of that road so thoroughly that every tie was burned and every rail bent, so it will require new material to put that part of the road in operation again. At 8 o'clock we returned to the rifle-pits southwest of the town with 15 prisoners, whom I turned over to the provost-marshal of the post.

On the 16th, at 11 a. m., we left Jackson, and reached Bolton on the 17th, at 2 a. m. Left camp at daylight; bivouacked at Bridgeport; crossed the Big Black on the 18th, at 6 a. m., and arrived on the rebel lines, in rear of Vicksburg, at 4 p. m.

In obedience to orders from Major-General Sherman, the brigade moved (May 19) on the plantation road leading north from the white house to the Chickasaw Bayou to join Major-General Steele's forces in that neighborhood, who were to establish a communication between the Yazoo River Landing and our army.

On my arrival at the old battle-ground at the bayou, I was ordered back to my place of starting, the above object having been accomplished by Major-General Steele before I reached him.

The brigade captured 10 rebel prisoners, who secreted themselves in a deserted camp below the bluffs. In all, 37 prisoners were taken.

Casualties at battle of Jackson.—Stephen Keenan, Company E, Thirty-fifth Iowa, killed; James H. Byers, Company G, Thirty-fifth Iowa, wounded; Peter Johnson, Company F, Thirty-fifth Iowa, removed from ambulance on road near Jackson, supposed to be killed, and reported missing.

Casualties May 19, *rear of Vicksburg.*—James N. Smith, Company C, Twelfth Iowa, killed; F. C. Cromwell, Company A, Twelfth Iowa, wounded; Daniel E. McCall, Company C, Twelfth Iowa, wounded slightly on chin while on picket May 27; [Maj. John H.] Stibbs, Twelfth Iowa, severely wounded by accidental discharge of pistol May 13.

2. From the first day of investment of Vicksburg (May 22 to June 1) this brigade remained in reserve.

During the 22d was ordered in the evening of that day to occupy the present position, in the rear of Waterhouse's, Spoor's, and Wood's batteries; the position being a natural fortification, which was improved with much labor by the good and willing men of the Third Brigade.

The time from the 23d of May to June 1 was usefully employed to

strengthen these works and to dig approaches toward those of the enemy.

Sir, I take pleasure in mentioning Lieutenant-Colonel Edgington, of the Twelfth Iowa Infantry, Major Palmer, of the Eighth Infantry, and Major O'Connor, of the Thirty-fifth Iowa Infantry, for the prompt and energetic manner with which they placed their skirmishers into the rifle-pits before Jackson, and were the first officers from our army corps which entered that city. The cheerfulness with which officers and men of this noble brigade endured fatigue, and marched under so many privations, and the eagerness with which they faced the enemy, cannot but command the highest praise from all of us.

Casualties May 22.—First Lieut. James C. Maxwell, Company C, Eighth Iowa, slightly wounded in arm; Corpl. Thomas Harris, Company B, Eighth Iowa, severely wounded on left hip; Corpl. Amos L. Graves, Company K, Eighth Iowa, severely wounded in left arm; William Eddy, Company G, Eighth Iowa, severely wounded in left side by the premature explosion of one of our own shells, and John A. Rowan, Company B, severely wounded in the left leg by premature bursting of one of our own shells.

Captain, I remain your most obedient servant,

C. L. MATTHIES,
Brigadier-General.

Capt. J. B. SAMPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 9.

Report of Col. Jesse I. Alexander, Fifty-ninth Indiana Infantry, First Brigade, Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, including operations May 3–24.

CAMP NEAR VICKSBURG, MISS.,
May 24, 1863.

I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of my command from the 3d instant up to the present date:

I was relieved from the command of the brigade and returned to my regiment at 10 o'clock of said day near Bayou Pierre, Miss., when, in obedience to your orders, I moved forward with my regiment, the Fifty-ninth Indiana Volunteer Infantry, at 12 m. on the main road leading to the Big Black River. After advancing about 1 mile from the head of our main column, with Companies A and K thrown forward as skirmishers, found the enemy in strong position, with two pieces of artillery so posted as to command the road and all the open ground in his front, his line of skirmishers thrown forward 200 yards, and his reserves and artillery support formed immediately in rear of his guns. I immediately deployed the remaining eight companies of my regiment as skirmishers, my line crossing the road at right angles and covering a front of 1,500 yards. The line advanced steadily under a heavy fire, and the enemy was driven from his first, second, and third positions.

Of the behavior of the officers and men under my command, I will not speak, as you were personally on the ground and saw for yourself.

I have to report the following casualties: Private Eli Faucette, Company E, killed; Private James W. Van Slyke, Company E, mortally

wounded (since died). A number of enlisted men sustained slight injuries—hardly to be called wounds.

In the evening moved up and encamped near the Big Black River, where we remained from the 4th to the 8th.

On the 9th, marched 4 miles east of Rocky Springs, and encamped.

On the 10th, marched to a point 3 miles east of Utica.

On the 11th, moved 2 miles.

On the 12th, moved in the direction of Raymond, when, about 12 m., heard heavy firing, and was ordered forward at a double-quick to the support of Logan's division. Moved up, and formed in rear of his left under fire from the enemy. The enemy were soon repulsed. There were no casualties in my command.

On the 13th, encamped 1 mile east of Clinton.

On the 14th, marched to within 1 mile of Jackson, when, in obedience to your order, my regiment was formed on the extreme right, throwing forward Companies K, A, and H as skirmishers, covering my front and right flank, when we joined with the division in the general assault on the enemy's works. The enemy was driven from his position, leaving his dead, wounded, and guns in our possession.

At this point Capt. L. B. Martin rode up and asked for the colors of the Fifty-ninth. I ordered them given to him, when he placed our colors on the dome of the capitol, where they remained in charge of my color-guard, whom I had ordered to guard them till next morning. They were the first and only colors planted on the capitol of Jackson. We encamped in the city. Casualties, 4 wounded.

On the 15th, left Jackson and marched 4 miles west of Clinton.

On the 16th, marched early in the direction of Vicksburg. At 11 a. m. heard heavy firing in front. Moved forward rapidly, and by your order was formed on the right of General Logan and in the rear of the Fourth Minnesota; was ordered to the left, and relieved, under the personal direction of General Leggett, the Thirtieth Illinois, which retired to replenish its cartridge-boxes. The enemy, mistaking the retiring Thirtieth Illinois for a general falling back of our lines, made a violent assault on my command. They were promptly met and driven back with great slaughter, First Sergeant Ford, of Company C, capturing the colors of the Forty-sixth Alabama.

In the mean time I had advanced my command and sheltered the men in a ravine, which position we held to the end of the battle. Casualties: Killed, 2; wounded, 8.

On the 17th, marched to the Big Black and built a bridge.

On the 18th and 19th, remained in camp.

On the 20th, marched 20 miles, and rejoined the division near Vicksburg.

On the 21st, moved 1 mile, and took position on the left of the Third Brigade.

On the 22d, in compliance with general orders from department headquarters for the general assault, I was attached to the Third Brigade, Colonel Boomer commanding, till 2 p. m., when we were ordered to the support of General Burbridge's brigade.

The list of casualties will sufficiently attest the dangers we encountered.

JESSE I. ALEXANDER,
Colonel Fifty-ninth Indiana Volunteers.

Capt. L. B. MARTIN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

No. 10.

Report of Col. Gabriel Bouck, Eighteenth Wisconsin Infantry, including operations May 13–July 6.

HEADQUARTERS EIGHTEENTH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS,
Vicksburg, Miss., August 7, 1863.

SIR: Received marching orders at Milliken's Bend, La., to report to Major-General McPherson, May 13, 1863.

Reported, and was assigned to First Brigade, Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps. Bivouacked that night near Clinton.

On the morning of May 14, we marched and met the enemy near Jackson, Miss. Gave them battle and whipped them. Loss, 23 killed and wounded. Bivouacked in Jackson that night.

May 15, marched toward Vicksburg, Miss. Bivouacked, and on the morning of the 16th took up our line of march, and got into the fight at Champion's Hill. Loss, 1 killed and 4 wounded.

About 9.30 a. m. on the 17th, marched on toward Black River. That night assisted in constructing a bridge across Black River.

May 18, marching orders. Went 3½ miles toward Vicksburg. Our brigade ordered back. Got back, and regiment went on picket.

May 19, relieved from picket, went to camp, and in the afternoon at 4 o'clock formed line of battle. Remained in line until 10.30 p. m., when we crossed the bridge in rear of all our transportation. Bivouacked for the night, and on the morning of the 20th took up line of march for Vicksburg. Arrived at our works or lines and took position that evening (21st) in camp.

May 22, ordered out skirmishing. Ordered in again at 10 a. m. Advanced with the brigade on to the enemy's works. The Eighteenth Regiment ordered out skirmishing, and was not relieved until the night of May 23. In both days our loss was 13 killed and wounded.

On the night of May 26, ordered into line, and went on an expedition to Yazoo River.

Went into camp at Haynes' Bluff on the afternoon of May 31, and got back to old position June 4.

Went out into rifle-pits June 6. Remained in old position in rear of Vicksburg.

June 19, one man severely wounded.

Doing picket or skirmish duty until the surrender of July 4, when we changed position.

July 6, went into camp inside the fortifications, having been doing any amount of duty ever since.

GAB. BOUCK,
Colonel, Commanding Eighteenth Wisconsin Volunteers.

No. 11.

Report of Col. Samuel A. Holmes, Tenth Missouri Infantry, commanding Second Brigade, including operations April 18–May 23.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SEVENTH DIV., SEVENTEENTH A. C.,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I herewith submit a detailed report of the operations of my brigade, consisting of the Tenth Missouri, Seventeenth Iowa, Eightieth

Ohio, and Fifty-sixth Illinois Infantry, as called for by Special Orders, No. 92, Army Corps Headquarters, of this date.

The brigade disembarked at Milliken's Bend, La., on the morning of April 18. The same day two regiments, the Fifty-sixth Illinois and Eightieth Ohio, in command of Colonel Raum, senior officer, were sent to occupy Richmond, La., and relieve the forces at that point.

On the 20th, I followed with the remainder of the brigade, with instructions to collect forage there for the passing troops, protect the pontoon bridge over the Roundaway Bayou, explore the same, reconnoiter the vicinity, and obtain such information as might be of service. I remained here in the discharge of these duties until the 25th, when I moved to Holmes' plantation, 10 miles. The next day to Smith's plantation, 8 miles, where I remained until the 28th; thence with the division to Fisk's plantation, 4 miles; thence, April 29, 12 miles, to Perkins' plantation; thence, April 30, some 20 miles around Lake Saint Joseph, to a point about 3 miles from the crossing of the river.

During these marches nearly all the camp and garrison equipage of the several regiments was left behind at different places for want of transportation.

On the morning of May 1, the guns were heard from the battle-field of Thompson's farm, or Port Gibson, showing a severe engagement in progress. Leaving the Fifty-sixth Illinois, Colonel Raum, on detail, I moved the other three regiments as rapidly as possible to Hard Times Landing, opposite Grand Gulf, where they embarked on board gunboats and transports, dropped down the river to a place called Bruinsburg, or some such name, and immediately took up the line of march for Port Gibson. When within about 3 miles of the battle-field, I received orders to that effect, and fell back 1 mile, with my own and three regiments of the Third Brigade, and took a position for the night, covering a road leading from Grand Gulf.

In the morning, being joined by the whole of the First and Third Brigades, I moved into Port Gibson, passing the battle-field of the day previous, and resting in town, awaiting the completion of the pontoon over the Bayou Pierre, the enemy having destroyed the other bridge behind them.

About 4 o'clock the same day, I crossed the Bayou Pierre and marched until late at night, and encamped near the bridge over the north branch of the Bayou Pierre.

During the night this bridge was made passable by a portion of the Third Brigade, and in the morning the troops crossed. Advancing about 3 miles, the head of the column encountered a force of the enemy with artillery, which was at once engaged by the skirmishers of the First Brigade, Colonel Sanborn, and a portion of the First Missouri Battery, Lieutenant MacMurray. I was ordered by Brigadier-General Crocker, commanding division, to take a position on the left of the road, which I did, the Tenth Missouri Infantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Horney, being deployed as skirmishers, supported by the Eightieth Ohio, Colonel Bartilson, and the Seventeenth Iowa, Colonel Hillis, in line of battle. The enemy soon abandoned the position, and the pursuit was at once resumed to Black River, distant 6 miles.

The brigade, with the division, remained bivouacked at this point until the morning of May 9, when we moved out on the Utica road 10 miles, and encamped.

On the morning of the 10th, we marched 10 miles, to a point 2 miles beyond Utica, and encamped.

Again, on the 11th, we marched about 1 mile, and took up a position.

May 12, we advanced about 7 miles toward Raymond, near which place we found Major-General Logan's division severely engaged with the enemy. The brigade, by direction of Brigadier-General Crocker, was at once formed in support of several batteries found in position on the left of the road, but not engaged.

Remaining here a short time, the Eightieth Ohio and Tenth Missouri were ordered to the support of Brigadier-General Stevenson, preparatory to an advance into town, the former to his center and the latter to the extreme right wing. Having taken the position assigned, the whole line of battle moved forward 1½ miles, and entered the place, the enemy evacuating without further opposition, except from his artillery, which did no damage to those of my command. One lieutenant and a few prisoners were captured by Company A, Tenth Missouri.

The brigade and division encamped near the town, and marched again on the morning of the 13th to Clinton, without opposition, and encamped 1 mile east of that place, on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad.

The march was resumed on the morning of the 14th toward Jackson, the Second Brigade leading. In view of the probability of soon meeting the enemy, a heavy force of skirmishers from the Tenth Missouri was thrown forward and deployed with supports. Advancing about 3 miles, the enemy was discovered in force on both sides of the road, occupying a commanding position, his right covered by a dense thicket of oak bushes, his center and artillery at Wright's house, with his left on the continuation of the ridge. The main position at the house was also covered by a line of infantry formed in the ravine in his immediate front. His artillery commanded the road and an open country of undulating ridges for 1½ miles in the direction of our approach. Upon discovering the enemy, the Second Brigade was at once deployed, the Tenth Missouri, Lieutenant-Colonel Horney, to the right of the road, and the Eightieth Ohio, Colonel Bartilson, and the Seventeenth Iowa, Colonel Hillis, to the left. The First Missouri Battery was now taken into position and my line changed so as to support it, with the Seventeenth Iowa on the left of the road, the Eightieth Ohio in the center on the right of the road, and the Tenth Missouri on the right of the line, the whole supported on the right by the First Brigade, Colonel Sanborn, and on the left by the Third Brigade, Colonel Boomer. The whole line advanced in a heavy rain and under a severe fire of artillery and skirmishers to within 500 yards of the enemy's main line, when I halted under the shelter of an intervening ridge, preparatory to the final charge. Being again ordered to advance, I commanded my three regiments to fix bayonets, and, at the word, to move at double-quick upon the enemy, which they did in excellent order, sweeping everything before them and carrying the position. The Sixth Wisconsin battery, Captain Dillon, was quickly brought to the front, and opened a heavy fire upon the fleeing enemy, who continued his retreat into and through the town of Jackson, abandoning his artillery as he went.

My loss in this battle—mostly in the charge—amounted in all to 215 killed, wounded, and missing, out of a force of about 1,000 actually engaged. Lists of the casualties accompany this report.*

The conduct of my officers and men in this action was worthy of all praise, without excepting any.

The brigade bivouacked in the town that night, and in the morning

* See p. 751.

took up the line of march, with the rest of the division, for Vicksburg. Marched 8 miles to Clinton, where I encamped, with orders to report to Major-General Grant at that place, which I did, the remainder of the division moving on.

Early on the morning of the 16th, I received orders from Major-General Grant to move immediately to join the division. Heavy firing being heard in the direction of Champion's Hill, I hurried forward with dispatch toward that place, distant 13 miles. Arriving within about 3 miles of the field of battle, I was met by orders to leave my train parked in guard of a regiment. The Eightieth Ohio, Colonel Bartilson, was assigned to this duty. The two remaining regiments, the Tenth Missouri, Lieutenant-Colonel Horney, and the Seventeenth Iowa, Colonel Hillis, continued to advance by the main road, the Seventeenth Iowa leading, until engaged with the enemy. The enemy occupied a strong position upon a steep, wooded hill, over which the road ran, flanked by deep ravines. This point had been sharply contested through the day, and at the time of the arrival of the regiments of the brigade, was in the act of being retaken by the enemy. Colonel Hillis, Seventeenth Iowa, encountering the enemy's fire, immediately formed forward into line and gallantly pressed on. I ordered the Tenth Missouri into line in the same manner and to advance. These two regiments drove the enemy from the position.

The gallant Lieutenant-Colonel Horney, commanding the Tenth Missouri, while moving his regiment across the road to the right to uncover the Seventeenth, fell, pierced by several balls, and the command devolved upon Maj. Francis C. Deimling, who led the regiment with great bravery through the rest of the fight. In this brief but fierce contest four pieces of artillery, which had been captured by our forces and again retaken by the enemy, were recaptured by the Seventeenth Iowa, together with the colors of the Thirty-first Alabama (rebel) Regiment. The position being taken was not again disputed. I estimate the number of prisoners taken by my brigade at not less than 300.

My loss in this action, in the two regiments engaged, was 103 killed, wounded, and missing, detailed reports of which are annexed.*

After the battle my brigade was ordered to remain to bury the dead, subject to the orders of Brigadier-General McGinnis, detailed with his brigade on the same duty.

On the 19th, I marched to Black River, joining Colonel Sanborn, with the First Brigade, and crossed the river during the night at the upper crossing. Before leaving Champion's Hill I was joined by the Fifty-sixth Illinois, absent on detached service since the crossing of the Mississippi. At the same point the Eightieth Ohio was detailed to guard prisoners, and is now absent on that duty.

On the 20th, I moved from my camp near Black River, with the Tenth Missouri, Seventeenth Iowa, and Fifty-sixth Illinois, to a position in the rear and near Vicksburg, and on the 21st to the position in front of the enemy's works now occupied by me.

On the 22d, the brigade was moved to the front as support to the First and Third Brigades, of this division, in the general assault ordered on that day.

Although partially under fire on that occasion, I sustained but small loss, a report of which is herewith forwarded.† Later in the evening I was moved to the left of the line, to report as support to Brigadier-General Osterhaus. Upon my arrival I received orders to move to the

* See Part II, p. 10

† See Part II, p. 165.

attack of the enemy's works in his front, which order was almost immediately countermanded, owing to the lateness of the hour.

Early on the morning of the 23d, I took up a position on the extreme left of our line, deploying skirmishers in front of the enemy's works and to my left, and at 3 p. m. same day returned to the position I now occupy.

In concluding this brief summary of the operations of this brigade throughout so long and active a period, I cannot withhold a just tribute to the lamented Lieut. Col. Leonidas Horney, commanding the Tenth Missouri Infantry, who fell, as stated, at Champion's Hill. He was truly a capable and valiant soldier, and his loss is very deeply regretted. Colonel Hillis, Seventeenth Iowa; Colonel Bartilson, Eightieth Ohio, and Major Deimling, Tenth Missouri, as will be seen, have rendered distinguished service in the operations of the brigade.

I am also much indebted to the services of my personal staff, Capt. W. W. McCammon, acting assistant adjutant-general, and First Lieut. H. H. Meredith, aide-de-camp.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. A. HOLMES,
Colonel Tenth Missouri Infantry, Commanding.

[Capt. MONTGOMERY ROCHESTER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.]

No. 12.

Reports of Col. David B. Hillis, Seventeenth Iowa Infantry, including operations April 20–May 24.

HDQRS. SEVENTEENTH REGT. IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Camp on Champion's Hill, Miss., May 17, 1863.

COLONEL: I have the honor of submitting the following report touching the part borne by my regiment (Seventeenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry) in the engagement before Jackson, Miss., on the 14th instant:

In compliance with your order, I first formed my line on the left of the railroad, 3 miles west of Jackson, my right resting on said road, on a parallel with the Eightieth Ohio, which was formed on the right of the road. The regiment occupied this position at a halt for perhaps twenty minutes, when you ordered me to move by the right flank across to the right of the road, which movement I was executing when I was ordered by General Crocker to move by the left flank to the front, maintaining my right on the left of the dirt road, on a line with the Eightieth Ohio and Tenth Missouri, they being on the right of said road, which I did. Upon this line I advanced about 1½ miles before encountering the enemy.

At this point I met his skirmishers, who reluctantly and slowly fell back as I pressed them upon their first line, which was composed of the Twenty-seventh [Twenty-fourth] South Carolina Sharpshooters, immediately in front, and another regiment on their right (my left), the name of which I have forgotten, formed in a ravine, with heavy underbrush between my line and theirs, at about 150 yards from my front. At this point the line, of which my regiment was the extreme left, was halted. You then ordered me to take the ravine, which I did by a bayonet charge at a double-quick, breaking the enemy's line and pressing him up and over the crest of the next hill. Having reached this crest, I ordered the regiment to cease firing and commanded a halt. After having rested

here some twenty minutes or more, I was ordered by you to throw forward one company in front of my line of skirmishers at a double-quick, to investigate the brush and woods in advance. This duty I intrusted to Company H, Captain Craig, which they did skillfully, discovering no enemy, as he had fled in great confusion, abandoning his position and camp, fort, containing four pieces of artillery, which the captain entered and took possession of and held until ordered forward into Jackson by General McPherson. The captain, therefore, claims the honor of having first entered the works and taken possession of the guns. Soon after this it was announced that the enemy had gone and that Jackson was occupied by our troops. This, then, ended the fight of Jackson, after which we moved forward and bivouacked for the night upon the premises of a Mrs. Clifton, in the suburbs of the city.

I went into action with 350 men, and lost during the engagement 16 killed, 60 wounded, 3 missing, and 1 disabled by a shell, making an aggregate of 80 men, or 23 per cent. of my command. The principal loss sustained was while charging the enemy down the ravine, where my left wing, being unsupported, was exposed to a severe cross-fire from the right of the enemy's lines.

I cannot speak in too high terms of praise of the gallantry and zeal displayed by the entire command. So well did all do their part that none are deserving of special mention, unless it be Capt. L. W. Huston, who, while suffering from a very painful and severe wound through his left fore-arm, away from all assistance, seized a gun from one of three rebels and brought the three into the hospital, and Lieutenant-Colonel Wever, and Captain Walden, who commanded the left wing, and had his horse killed under him, and Adjutant Woolsey, to all of whom I am indebted for their coolness and assistance, and take pleasure in commending.

Respectfully,

D. B. HILLIS,
Colonel, Commanding Seventeenth Iowa Volunteer Infantry.

Col. SAMUEL A. HOLMES,
Comdg. Second Brig., Seventh Div., Seventeenth Army Corps.

HDQRS. SEVENTEENTH IOWA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Before Vicksburg, Miss., May 26, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with Special Orders, No. 27, from your headquarters, of date May 24, 1863, I herewith submit a report of marches, battles, and other operations of the Seventeenth Iowa since leaving Milliken's Bend (April 20) to May 24.

April 20, the regiment left Milliken's Bend at 9 a. m., and marched 12 miles, to Richmond, La. Went into camp at 3 p. m., and remained until April 25.

At 9 o'clock a. m., marched 10 miles, to Holmes' plantation, and bivouacked.

April 26, at 6 a. m., marched 8 miles, to Smith's plantation, and bivouacked at 12 m., and remained until April 28.

At 9 a. m. marched 4 miles through mud from 4 to 6 inches deep, and bivouacked near Colonel Fisk's (rebel) plantation.

April 29, marched 12 miles, and bivouacked at 12 m. at Perkins' plantation.

April 30, at 6 a. m., marched 12 miles, and bivouacked 6 miles from the place of crossing the river.

May 1, marched 6 miles to crossing; the regiment crossed in a gunboat by 2 o'clock, and immediately marched (9 miles) out to re-enforce McClernand, who was engaging the enemy near Port Gibson.

May 2, at 6 a. m., marched 10 miles to Port Gibson, and halted in the town to await the reconstruction of the bridge across Big Bayou Pierre, which the rebels had burned in their retreat. At 4 p. m. crossed the bayou and marched 8 miles by 8 o'clock, and bivouacked in a field.

May 3, marched 1 mile to bridge across Little Bayou Pierre and awaited the repairing of it. The rebels were but a short distance on the other side. We crossed, and shortly afterward our brigade was ordered into position on the left of the road to Big Black River, the Seventeenth and Eightieth in line and the Tenth Missouri in advance, skirmishing; but not finding the enemy, we were shortly ordered forward, and marched 4 miles, and went into camp near Big Black River, where we remained (occasionally capturing a few rebels while on picket) until May 9.

At 5.30 a. m. same day marched 12 miles on Jackson road, and bivouacked on the crest of a pine ridge.

May 10, marched 10 miles, and bivouacked in a thick underbrush 3½ miles west of Utica.

May 11, marched 2 miles to a more comfortable position.

May 12, marched 9 miles to within 2½ miles of Raymond, expecting to join in the engagement which was progressing. On our arrival my regiment (together with the Tenth Missouri and Eightieth Ohio, of our brigade) was formed in line of battle on the crest of a hill commanding the valley in which the battle was raging. While here, the Tenth and Eightieth were ordered forward, while my regiment was left on the hill for perhaps fifteen minutes, when it was ordered forward by General Crocker (commanding Seventh Division), and marched 3 miles to a point one-half mile northwest of Raymond, and bivouacked at 9 p. m.

May 13, marched 10 miles, and bivouacked 2 miles east of Clinton; stormy weather.

May 14, marched 4 miles, and were formed in line of battle, my regiment on the left of the Jackson road, the right resting against said road, and were ordered forward (through a pelting rain) in line of battle, and advanced without resistance for perhaps 1½ miles, when I encountered the enemy's skirmishers, and was shortly after hotly engaged, losing 16 killed, 60 wounded, 1 disabled by a shell, and 3 missing; making an aggregate of 80, or 23 per cent. of the number engaged (350), as per official report.

My skirmishers entered the fortifications (containing four pieces of artillery) and occupied them until ordered forward into the city. We encamped in the suburbs of the city for the night, and procured a supply of meal and bacon for my boys, who had been for some days on short rations.

May 15, marched 8 miles to Clinton, and were retained (together with the Tenth and Eightieth) while the rest of the corps moved forward toward Big Black River.

May 16, marched 12 miles to Champion's Hill, where a desperate battle was being fought; were double-quicked through dust and a burning sun, and immediately formed in line of battle on the left of the Vicksburg (dirt) road, from which point I charged the enemy, who were severely pressing the center of our lines, driving him in confusion before me, completely routing and scattering his center, and capturing a stand of colors, 175 prisoners, and recapturing four pieces of artillery which had been previously captured, but retaken by the enemy.

After the battle I rested my wearied boys on the roadsides until 5 o'clock, when we were ordered into camp.

In the engagement I lost 5 killed, 49 wounded, 1 missing, and 2 disabled; making an aggregate of 57, or 25 per cent. of the number engaged (which was between 200 and 230), as per official report.

May 17 and 18, engaged in burying the dead and attending to the wounded.

May 19, marched 7 miles to Big Black River, and were formed in line of battle while the trains were crossing the pontoons, after which I crossed the Big Black and bivouacked 1 mile beyond.

May 20, marched 19 miles to within 1 mile of our lines around Vicksburg, and bivouacked at 11 p. m. in a deep ravine with the First Brigade of our division.

May 21, moved out and took position in front of, and about half a mile distant from, the rebel forts.

May 22, at 9.30 a. m., moved forward to within 300 yards of the forts. While in position in a ravine, 1 captain and 2 men of my regiment were wounded and carried from the field. At about 3 p. m. we moved (3 miles) to the right of the enemy's lines, and bivouacked in a ravine on the left of the One hundred and eighteenth Illinois. Here we received a two days' supply of rations.

May 23, moved out and took position at 8 a. m. in a ravine in front of the center of the enemy's right, which we occupied until 3 p. m., when we were moved back (3 miles) to the position occupied on the 21st, where we now are.

Total distance marched, 191½ miles. During the marches from Milliken's Bend the regiment received less than an average of one-third rations, but, notwithstanding this, it is worthy of note that during the whole of this trying but brilliant campaign not a murmur was heard in the ranks.

Respectfully,

D. B. HILLIS,
Colonel, Commanding Seventeenth Iowa Volunteers.

Capt. WILLIAM W. MCCAMMON,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., 2d Brig., 7th Div., 17th Army Corps.

No. 13.

Report of Maj. Francis C. Deimling, Tenth Missouri Infantry, including operations April 20–May 23.

HEADQUARTERS TENTH REGIMENT MISSOURI INFANTRY,
In the Field, in rear of Vicksburg, Miss., May 25, 1863.

CAPTAIN: In compliance with Special Orders, No. 85, Headquarters Seventh Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of this regiment from the time of leaving Milliken's Bend, La., up to and including the 24th instant:

It is necessary to state that up to the 16th instant the regiment was under the command of Lieut. Col. Leonidas Horney. On that day this officer was instantly killed on the battle-field at Champion's Hill, and consequently the duty of making a report of the movements and actions of the regiment while under his command has devolved upon myself.

At 7 o'clock on the morning of Monday, April 20, the regiment, as

part of the Second Brigade, Seventh Division, in pursuance of orders from Major-General McPherson, marched from Milliken's Bend, La., to Richmond, La., about 12 miles distant, at which place it remained encamped until the morning of April 25, when it marched 10 miles to Holmes' plantation.

Sunday, April 26, marched 8 miles to Smith's plantation. Weather very hot, causing much suffering among the men. Encamped on Roundaway Bayou near its junction with Bayou Vidal, at which place we remained until 8 a. m., April 28, when, leaving all camp and garrison equipage, marched over very bad roads from recent rains 7 miles to Fisk's plantation.

April 29, marched from last-named place, crossing two bayous by means of pontoon bridges, 9 miles to a plantation, name unknown.

April 30, drew six days' rations, three of which were issued to the command, and marched 22 miles to Perkins' plantation, on Lake Saint Joseph, and 2 miles from Hard Times Landing, on the Mississippi River.

May 1, marched 2 miles to Hard Times Landing, and 3 miles down the levee to Bruinsburg Landing, on the Mississippi River; leaving all public and personal baggage, embarked on board the gunboat Carondelet, dropped down the river about 4 miles, and landed on the Mississippi shore.

From the time of starting on this day, the action then in progress at Baldwin's Hill being in full hearing, the regiment was as soon as possible hurried forward in support. Marched 10 miles, and at 8 p. m. bivouacked for the night.

At 2 a. m. of the 2d we marched for Port Gibson. At 9 a. m. passed over the battle-ground of the previous day, and at 2 p. m. entered Port Gibson. Remained there two hours, and, passing over a newly made pontoon bridge across the bayou at town, marched 8 miles to Bayou Pierre, and bivouacked about 11 p. m.

May 3, started at daybreak, and after marching 1 mile found the advance, under General Logan, checked by a force of the enemy posted on the hills commanding the road across Bayou Pierre. After some skirmishing the enemy withdrew his forces, and the regiment, as part of the division, marched about 3 miles, when, leaving the main road to the right, it turned off to the left toward Black River, and after advancing about 1 mile the head of column was checked by a force of the enemy, consisting of the First Missouri (Confederate) Battery, with infantry supports. The regiment was formed on the road in support of the First Missouri Battery, U. S. Volunteers, and a brisk artillery skirmish ensued.

About 2.30 p. m., by order of Col. S. A. Holmes, commanding brigade, the regiment was deployed as skirmishers to the left of the road across ——— Creek, and through a heavy timber ravine, the Eightieth Ohio and Seventeenth Iowa Regiments being formed in line of battle about 150 yards to the rear as support. The skirmishers were cautiously advanced until the right rested on the left of the skirmishers of the First Brigade of this division, and within 300 yards of the position of the rebel battery. Remained in this position for about one-half hour, when, the enemy retiring, the regiment was reformed and marched with the brigade and division in pursuit about 6 miles to Black River and bivouacked.

Remained until the 9th instant, when, General Steele's division arriving, we marched 10 miles on the Utica road and encamped.

May 10, marched at 10 a. m. 8 miles to a point 2 miles beyond Utica.

May 11, marched 1 mile and bivouacked.

May 12, at 7 a. m., marched about 7 miles toward Raymond. When within 2 miles of the town went into position on the left side of the road, in support of the Eleventh Ohio Battery, which was posted on a ridge about 50 yards to the front. Remained in this position about thirty minutes, the enemy, under General Gregg, being actively engaged by General Logan's division, when, by order of General Crocker, commanding the division, the regiment was marched about half a mile to the front and right, across a small creek, and moved to the right of General Stevenson's brigade, of General Logan's division, thus occupying the extreme right of the whole first line of battle. Company A was deployed as skirmishers to the right and front, and the regiment advanced with the first line about 1½ miles to the southern edge of the town, from which the enemy retired, leaving his dead and wounded, the skirmishers capturing 1 lieutenant and 5 men of the Tenth Regiment Tennessee Infantry, C. S. Army. Marched through town and bivouacked about 7 p. m. on the northwestern side of the same.

May 13, marched 9 miles to Clinton, on the Vicksburg and Jackson Railroad, and bivouacked 1 mile east of town, near the railroad.

May 14, the division marched at 6 a. m. on the Jackson road, the Tenth Missouri occupying the right. At the crossing of the Jackson road by the railroad, Company A, under Capt. C. A. Gilchrist, was deployed as skirmishers on the right and left of the road, at 5 paces' interval, with Company D as first reserve on the road, and Company I as a second reserve on the same. The skirmishers and column advanced about 2½ miles, when, at 9 a. m., the enemy was discovered in force, with infantry and four pieces of artillery, posted on a commanding ridge on the farm of O. P. Wright, with a line of skirmishers deployed to his front. The regiments of the brigade were here deployed into line, the Seventeenth Iowa Regiment on the left of the road, their right resting on the road, the Eightieth Ohio on the right of the road, and the Tenth Missouri Regiment on the same line and to the right of the Eightieth Ohio. The rain-storm which had been falling during the morning now increased in violence, during which the pieces of the First Missouri Artillery were placed in position, three to the right of the house of Mr. Mann, on a ridge and to the left of a cotton-gin. One piece of the same battery was placed on the road to the left of the house and garden fence, the Tenth Missouri Regiment being moved to the support of the above-named three pieces on the right and about 40 paces to the rear, the First Brigade being formed in a second line and about 50 yards to our rear. During all this time the enemy kept up a brisk fire with his artillery with shell and solid shot.

At about 11 a. m. the whole line was ordered to advance, and the skirmishers soon engaged those of the enemy, gradually driving them on their supporting line. The regiments moved forward, under a heavy fire of artillery, about 400 yards over two ridges, and formed under the crest of a third ridge, the other regiments of the brigade occupying their same relative positions. We remained here about fifteen minutes, the enemy continuing his fire. Col. Samuel A. Holmes, commanding the Second Brigade, now commanded that bayonets be fixed and a charge be made upon the enemy. The order was obeyed. The troops moved forward at double-quick, cheering wildly, driving in first the enemy's skirmishers and then their main line, passing over about 500 yards, under a terrific fire of shell, canister, and musketry, to the house of O. P. Wright, in and behind which, and the hedges, fences, and trees surrounding it, the rebels were hidden and protected. Here ensued an

almost hand-to-hand conflict with the Twenty-fourth Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, the Tenth Missouri suffering severely from the streams of fire which issued from behind every object which could furnish a protection to the enemy. We succeeded finally in dislodging and driving them some 200 yards to the left and toward the main road to Jackson, when, while reforming our line, a section of the Sixth Wisconsin Battery was rapidly brought upon the ground (the regiment forming the support to the same on the right) and completed the rout of the enemy.

The line of the brigade being again formed, advanced to near the brow of a hill in front of the earthworks on the outskirts of Jackson, from which works a brisk fire of artillery was kept up. Company F, Tenth Missouri, under command of Capt. Joseph Walker, was now deployed as skirmishers to the front of the regiment. The enemy soon after deserted their works, leaving four pieces of artillery unspiked, and retreating through the town, destroying stores, &c. The regiment advanced in line of battle to the outskirts of the town, and then by the flank to a deserted camp on the right side of the road, where it bivouacked for the night.

The regiment lost in this action 10 killed on the field and 74 wounded, several of whom have since died, a list of which is hereto appended, marked A.

During the evening such rations as could be procured were issued to the men, and at 10 a. m. of May 15 [the regiment] marched back to Clinton, bivouacking on the north side of the town.

On May 16, at 7 a. m., received orders to march, and proceeded westward on the Vicksburg road, heavy firing being heard to the front. At 11 o'clock, halted at the house of Mr. Edwards, where we passed the division train, the Eightieth Ohio Regiment being detached from the brigade for the purpose of rear guard. Resumed the march, the fire becoming heavier, when, about 2 p. m., crossing the railroad and approaching Champion's Hill, we were hurried forward to participate in the action, the men throwing off haversacks and knapsacks on the road. Arriving at the foot of the hill, we rapidly formed line of battle to the left, and charged up the hill over ground of the roughest and most broken character, meeting and checking the enemy, who was driving back in disorder and confusion the troops in our advance. We proceeded forward steadily over the hills and ravines, fighting the enemy, who contested the ground closely, until we arrived at a fence and open field, across which they fled into the woods beyond, endeavoring to form there, but by well-directed volleys we dislodged them, and they made no further appearance in this direction. The Seventeenth Iowa Regiment having all this time engaged the enemy in the woods on our right and across the Vicksburg road, the regiment was moved by the right flank to their support, and in executing this movement Lieut. Col. Leonidas Horney, who, up to this period, had been in command of the regiment, was instantly killed, falling from his horse pierced with three shots in the breast and head. The command now devolved upon myself, as the only remaining field officer. The enemy at this time were advancing up the ravine on our now left, and I directed the fire of the left wing upon them, checking and driving them back. The right wing of the regiment, under the direction of Capt. Charles A. Gilchrist, of Company A, had advanced down the slope in support of the Seventeenth Iowa, and assisted in defeating the enemy's intention of recapturing and removing a battery from which they had

been driven by the Eleventh Indiana Regiment, who, in their turn, had been forced to retire and abandon the guns. The rebels retreating, I formed the regiment upon the Vicksburg road, and, by order of Colonel Holmes, went into position on the right side of, and at right angles to, said road, deploying skirmishers to the front and right. The action ceasing, the regiment was marched about 300 yards to the rear of this position, and bivouacked on the left of the road for the night.

In this action 7 were killed on the field, 36 wounded, and 3 missing, several of whom subsequently died, a list of which is hereto appended, marked B.*

The brigade being ordered by General Grant to remain on the field and assist in removing the wounded, burying the dead, and collecting the arms and accouterments left on the ground, remained at this place, performing said duties, until Tuesday, 19th instant, at 12 m., when it received orders to march to Black River. Marched — miles to within 1 mile of the river, where the regiment was posted on the north side of the Vicksburg road, on the right of and supporting a section of the Twelfth Wisconsin Battery, to cover the crossing of Black River by the division train and a large body of (say 4,000) prisoners. This was accomplished by 10 o'clock that night, and the forces on the east side were ordered to cross to the west side of the river, which was done, and the regiment bivouacked about 11 p. m. 1 mile west of the pontoon bridge, on the left side of the Vicksburg road.

May 20, started early in the morning, and marched about 10 miles to a position in the rear of Vicksburg, and in a ravine on the left of the road, bivouacking for the night.

May 21, moved to our present position, 1 mile distant from the last-named bivouac, and in the evening received orders to issue ammunition to the amount of 100 rounds per man, preparatory to storming the enemy's works on the morrow.

May 22, at 10 o'clock, moved to the front a quarter of a mile across a ridge swept by the fire from the rebel forts and sharpshooters, and took a position on the left of the brigade, which was the reserve of the division in the assault ordered to be made by the whole line at the above-named hour. We occupied this position about one hour, deploying skirmishers to the left and front on the next ridge, when we advanced across the ridge in front to the ravine beyond, and, after remaining about the same length of time, received orders to retire to the position last occupied by us, and remained there about one hour, when orders were received for the First and Third Brigades to charge the works, and the regiment, with the others of the Second Brigade, to advance to the brow of the hill in front, and repel any attack which the besieged might make, should the assault prove unsuccessful; but, before this movement could be executed, the division was ordered to the left, to support the army corps of General McClernand. The brigade marched about 2 miles to the left, and reported to General Osterhaus, and bivouacked in a ravine on the west side of the road for the night.

May 23, at 7 a. m., marched about three-quarters of a mile southward to a ravine, —— yards from the works, and deployed the left wing as skirmishers to the left and one company to the right and front. Remained in this position until 1 o'clock, when, under orders from General Quinby, the regiment, with the brigade, marched back to the position it now occupies, and has remained here since.

The only casualties during these two days were 2 men wounded.

* Not found; but see Part II, p. 10.

In all the actions and skirmishes in which the regiment has been engaged during the past two weeks, the officers and men seemed to do everything which their duties as soldiers demanded. It might seem invidious, perhaps, for me to particularize individuals, but justice demands that some mention be made of several officers and enlisted men whose services deserve special notice.

In the action at Jackson, May 14, Color Sergt. Calvin R. Lingle, although weakened by disease, displayed undaunted courage and determination to keep the flag to the front, and only resigned it on the entrance into camp at Jackson. At the action at Champion's Hill, the colors were borne by Acting Corpl. Martin C. Carmody, who, although badly wounded in the face, refused to resign his charge, but steadfastly maintained it and his position in the ranks until the fire ceased. The dauntless courage of both of these men deserves honorable mention.

At the action at Champion's Hill, upon the death of Lieutenant-Colonel Horney, Capt. C. A. Gilchrist assumed command of the right wing, and while I was engaged on the left, and unaware of the death of the lieutenant-colonel, rendered such services as deserve my hearty thanks and approbation.

In the actions at Raymond, Jackson, and Champion's Hill, and during the operations in rear of Vicksburg, the services rendered and coolness displayed while under fire by Adjt. John W. Boyd, jr., are deserving of much commendation.

Surg. O. B. Payne, as heretofore, was indefatigable in his care and attention to the wounded of the regiment.

Number engaged at Jackson, 430; number engaged at Champion's Hill, as near as can be ascertained, say, 325.

Respectfully submitted.

F. C. DEIMLING,
Major, Commanding Tenth Regiment Missouri Infantry.

Capt. WILLIAM W. MCCAMMON,
Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen., 2d Brig., 7th Div., 17th Army Corps.

No. 14.

Report of Brig. Gen. John Gregg, C. S. Army, commanding at Jackson.

IN CAMP NEAR VERONA, MISS.,
June 22, 1863.

COLONEL: I make of the action had by the forces under my command with the Federal army at Jackson, Miss., on May 14, ultimo the following report:

It being evident that the Federal forces advancing upon Jackson were very large, General [Joseph E.] Johnston instructed me that the city would be evacuated, and that I should take command of the troops and hold the enemy in check until Brig. Gen. John Adams should have prepared his train and set out upon our line of retreat—the Canton road.

Pursuant to this, at 3 a. m. I ordered Col. P. H. Colquitt, commanding brigade, to move his troops 3 miles toward Clinton, and myself proceeded toward Clinton and instructed him at what point on the road

he was to post his command. I also ordered Brigadier-General Walker to move his brigade to within easy supporting distance of Colonel Colquitt, and remain until it became necessary to render his assistance in order to prevent Colonel Colquitt's being forced back.

As a large force of the enemy (since learned to have been Sherman's corps) was approaching by the road from Mississippi Springs, I ordered Colonel [A. P.] Thompson, of the Third Kentucky Mounted Infantry, to take position on this road 2 miles from Jackson, and also ordered out to his support the battalion of sharpshooters (Major [A.] Shaaff commanding) belonging to Brigadier-General Walker's brigade, and Captain [R.] Martin's battery, belonging to the same brigade. Colonel [R.] Farquharson, commanding the brigade formerly commanded by myself, was ordered to march out on the Clinton road 2½ miles, and thence move by the right flank across the open field toward the Livingston road, and whenever within sight of the enemy make such demonstrations as might impress him with the idea that it was our intention to fall upon his left flank.

At 9 a. m., the enemy came up by the Clinton road and commenced the attack. In a few minutes after, the attack was made by the force on the road from Mississippi Springs. Owing to the well-directed fire from Captain [J. A.] Hoskins' battery, and the fire of Colonel Colquitt's skirmishers, as well, I think, as the fact that Colonel Farquharson showed his command in line of battle on the hills to Colonel Colquitt's right, the advance of the enemy was very cautious and slow. His movement by the road from Mississippi Springs was retarded in the same spirited manner.

The fighting continued on both roads between the batteries (Captain Martin's being well served on the road from Mississippi Springs) and the skirmishers until near 2 o'clock, when I received notice that the trains were already on their way. I immediately ordered the entire force to withdraw, which was done in excellent order, our troops not having permitted the enemy to press them back at any point until the order was given.

The utmost good order prevailed, and during the fight the troops engaged (Hoskins' battery and Colquitt's brigade on the Clinton road, and Thompson's Third Kentucky and Martin's battery on the road from Mississippi Springs) behaved with the most determined coolness and courage.

Brigadier-General Walker's and Colonel Colquitt's commands moved through the streets of Jackson and came into their proper places from the different roads without interference with the movements of each other. Colonel Thompson, with his mounted infantry and Captain [T. M.] Nelson's company of cavalry, brought up the rear. Colonel Farquharson, by my order, proceeded obliquely across from the Clinton to the Canton road and fell into the column at his proper place.

The lists of casualties in Colonel Colquitt's different regiments are forwarded, but I have been unable to obtain a report from General [W. H. T.] Walker, though I think a few casualties occurred in his brigade. He has declined to make a report.

I have from reliable sources that the enemy's loss was 400 in killed and wounded. Our loss in killed, wounded, and missing was 200.

JOHN GREGG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

Col. B. S. EWELL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

ADDENDA.

Return of Casualties in Gist's Brigade in the engagement at Jackson, May 14, 1863.

[Compiled from nominal lists of casualties, returns, &c.]

Command.	Killed.		Wounded.		Captured or missing.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	Officers.	Enlisted men.	
46th Georgia	.....	4	2	20	.....	62	88
14th Mississippi	.....	2	.....	3	.....	.....	5
24th South Carolina *	1	10	3	35	2	54	105
Hoskins' battery †	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
Total	1	16	5	59	2	116	198

No. 15.

Report of Col. Peyton H. Colquitt, Forty-sixth Georgia Infantry, commanding Gist's Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS GIST'S BRIGADE,
Near Calhoun, Miss., May 16, 1863.

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that my brigade—consisting of a battalion of the Forty-sixth Georgia Volunteers, Capt. T. B. Hancock commanding; Twenty-fourth Regiment South Carolina Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel [Ellison] Capers commanding; battalion Fourteenth Mississippi Volunteers, Lieutenant-Colonel [W. L.] Doss commanding, and Captain [J. A.] Hoskins' battery light artillery—on the morning of the 14th instant were posted on the Clinton road, 3 miles from Jackson, with instructions to hold the enemy in check, then approaching in heavy force. He made his appearance at 9 a. m. The action began soon after.

At 2 p. m., in conformity with orders, I withdrew the brigade, not a man having receded an inch, and having resisted successfully the column of the enemy.

All behaved well, officers and men, and won my admiration by their coolness and bravery.

The following is a list of the casualties:‡

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. H. COLQUITT,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

Capt. THOMAS W. HALL,
Assistant Adjutant General.

* Lieut. A. F. Cunningham killed.
† Six horses killed.
‡ Embodied in tabular statement preceding.

ALTERNATE DESIGNATIONS

OF

ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS VOLUME.*

Adaire's (T. N.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 4th Regiment.*
Adams' (Hugh W.) **Infantry.** See *Kentucky Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
Adams' (Wirt) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Adamson's (Frederick C.) **Cavalry.** See *Michigan Troops, 3d Regiment.*
Alexander's (Jesse I.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 59th Regiment.*
Anderson's (Joseph W.) **Artillery.** See *Botetourt Artillery.*
Anderson's (Robert H.) **Cavalry.** See *Georgia Troops, 5th Regiment.*
Appeal **Artillery.** See *Arkansas Troops, Confederate.*
Atherton's (Joseph B.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 22d Regiment.*
Bailey's (George W. K.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 99th Regiment.*
Barnes' (George) **Cavalry.** See *Wirt Adams' Cavalry.*
Barrett's (Samuel E.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery B.*
Barteau's (C. R.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
Bartilson's (Matthias H.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 80th Regiment.*
Bayne's (Griff.) **Sharpshooters.** See *Arkansas Troops, Confederate, 12th Battalion.*
Beach's (Augustus) **Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 2d Battery.*
Beaumont's (T. W.) **Infantry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 50th Regiment.*
Bennett's (Thomas W.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 69th Regiment.*
Bevier's (R. S.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 5th Regiment.*
Bissell's (Josiah W.) **Engineers.** See *Missouri Troops, Union.*
Blackburn's (G. T.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 28th Regiment.*
Blackburn's (William D.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
Bledsoe's (H. M.) **Artillery.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate.*
Blount's (Ambrose A.) **Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 17th Battery.*
Blythe's (G. L.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Bolton's (William H.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment, Battery L.*
Botetourt **Artillery.** See *Virginia Troops.*
Botsford's (Eli W.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 16th Regiment.*
Bouck's (Gabriel) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 18th Regiment.*
Boyles' (William) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, 15th Battalion.*
Bridges' † (H. W.) **Sharpshooters.** See *Arkansas Troops, Confederate, 12th Battalion.*
Bringhurst's (Thomas H.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 46th Regiment.*
Brookhaven **Artillery.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Brown's (Charles F.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 26th Regiment.*
Brown's (William N.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, 20th Regiment.*
Brush's (Daniel H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 18th Regiment.*
Bryan's (B. F.) **Cavalry.** See *Miles' Legion.*
Buchanan's (Robert) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
Buehler's (Theodore E.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 67th Regiment.*

* References are to index following. † Temporarily commanding.

Burnet's (James) **Infantry.** See *Texas Troops.*
Bush's (Daniel B., jr.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Byam's (Eber C.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 24th Regiment.*
Cameron's (Robert A.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 34th Regiment.*
Campbell's (Franklin) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 81st Regiment.*
Campbell's (George H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 106th Regiment.*
Capers' (Ellison) **Infantry.** See *South Carolina Troops, 24th Regiment.*
Chalmers' (A. H.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 18th Battalion.*
Chamberlain's (Edwin W.) **Infantry.** See *Louisiana Troops, Union, 11th Regiment (Colored).*
Cherokee Artillery. See *Georgia Troops.*
Chicago Mercantile Artillery. See *Charles G. Cooley's Artillery.*
Clack's (C. J.) **Infantry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 3d Regiment.*
Claiborne Rangers, Infantry. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 12th Regiment.*
Cleveland's (S. B.) **Cavalry.** See *Wirt Adams' Cavalry.*
Cobb's (Robert) **Artillery.** See *Kentucky Troops, Confederate.*
Cole's Cavalry. (Official designation not of record.) See *Captain Cole.*
Coleman's (David C.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 8th Regiment.*
Colms' (S. H.) **Infantry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 1st Battalion.*
Connell's (John) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 28th Regiment.*
Cooley's (Charles G.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops.*
Corbin's (W. H.) **Cavalry.** See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 13th Battalion.*
Corkery's (William) **Artillery.** See *Henry Guibor's Artillery.*
Corput's (Max Van Den) **Artillery.** See *Cherokee Artillery.*
Cowen's (Luther H.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 45th Regiment.*
Cradlebaugh's (John) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 114th Regiment.*
Cravens' (Jordan E.) **Infantry.** See *Arkansas Troops, Confederate, 21st Regiment.*
Crescent Artillery. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate.*
Cunningham's (James) **Cavalry.** See *Alabama Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Davis' (William P.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 23d Regiment.*
Dawson's (W. A.) **Cavalry.** See *F. M. Stewart's Cavalry.*
Dawson's (W. E.) **Artillery.** See *Saint Louis Artillery.*
Dayton's (James H.) **Infantry.** See *West Virginia Troops, 4th Regiment.*
De Baun's (J.) **Cavalry.** See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 9th Battalion.*
De Golyer's (Samuel) **Artillery.** See *Michigan Troops, 8th Battery.*
Deimling's (Francis C.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 10th Regiment.*
Dillon's (Henry) **Artillery.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 6th Battery.*
Dollins' (James J.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 81st Regiment.*
Dornblaser's (Benjamin) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 46th Regiment.*
Doss' (W. L.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 14th Regiment.*
Earl's (Seth C.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 53d Regiment.*
Eastman's (Harry E.) **Cavalry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Eaton's (William W.) **Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Eldridge's (Hamilton N.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 127th Regiment.*
Emerson's (Daniel M.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 6th Regiment.*
Engelmann's (Adolph) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 43d Regiment.*
Erwin's (Eugene) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 6th Regiment.*
Falkner's (W. C.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 1st Regiment, Partisan Rangers.*
Farquharson's (Robert) **Infantry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 41st Regiment.*
Fenton's (Frank B.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment, Battery A.*
Fisher's (Cyrus W.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 54th Regiment.*
Floyd's (W. J.) **Cavalry.** See *Peach Creek Rangers.*
Fonda's (John G.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 118th Regiment.*
Force's (Manning F.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 20th Regiment.*

Forney's (George H.) **Infantry.** See *Confederate Troops, Regulars, 1st Battalion.*
Foster's (Jacob T.) **Artillery.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 1st Battery.*
Foster's (John S.) **Cavalry.** See *Ohio Troops, 4th Company.*
Fuller's (E. W.) **Cavalry.** See *Saint Martin's Rangers.*
Gantt's (George) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 9th Battalion.*
Garland's (W. H.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Gause's (W. R.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 3d Regiment.*
Gill's (Charles R.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 29th Regiment.*
Glasgow's (Samuel L.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 23d Regiment.*
Goodwin's (Edward) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, 35th Regiment.*
Graham's (Harvey) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 22d Regiment.*
Graham's (John M.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
Granbury's (H. B.) **Infantry.** See *Texas Troops, 7th Regiment.*
Grayson's (John B.) **Heavy Artillery.** See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 1st Regiment.*
Grierson's (Benjamin H.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 6th Regiment.*
Griffin's (S. H.) **Infantry.** See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 31st Regiment.*
Griffith's (Henry H.) **Artillery.** See *Iowa Troops, 1st Battery.*
Guibor's (Henry) **Artillery.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate.*
Guppey's (Joshua J.) **Infantry.** See *Wisconsin Troops, 23d Regiment.*
Guthrie's (Harvey, jr.) **Artillery.** See *Ohio Troops, 2d Battery.*
Hall's Cavalry. (Official designation not of record.) See *Captain Hall.*
Ham's (T. W.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Hancock's (T. B.) **Infantry.** See *Georgia Troops, 46th Regiment.*
Harrison's (Isaac F.) **Cavalry.** See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 15th Battalion.*
Hart's (Levi W.) **Artillery.** See *Illinois Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery H.*
Hatch's (Edward) **Cavalry.** See *Iowa Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Hayes' (Charles S.) **Cavalry.** See *Ohio Troops, 5th Regiment.*
Heath's (Thomas T.) **Cavalry.** See *Ohio Troops, 5th Regiment.*
Herren's (Gadi) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 1st Regiment.*
Herrick's (Thomas P.) **Cavalry.** See *Kansas Troops, 7th Regiment.*
Hervey's (W.) **Artillery.** See *Crescent Artillery.*
Hewlett's (W. A.) **Partisans.** See *Alabama Troops, 13th Cavalry Battalion.*
Higley's (John H.) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, 40th Regiment.*
Hillis' (David B.) **Infantry.** See *Iowa Troops, 17th Regiment.*
Hogg's (William N.) **Artillery.** See *Appeal Artillery.*
Holland's (O. S.) **Infantry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 37th Regiment.*
Horney's (Leonidas) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 10th Regiment.*
Hoskins' (James A.) **Artillery.** See *Brookhaven Artillery.*
Hotaling's (John R.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Hubbard's (Lucius F.) **Infantry.** See *Minnesota Troops, 5th Regiment.*
Hubbell's (F. L.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 3d Regiment.*
Hudson Artillery. See *Pettus' Flying Artillery.*
Hughes' Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Cavalry.*
Hurst's (Fielding) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Union, 6th Regiment.*
Hutchens' (William D.) **Cavalry.** See *Illinois Troops, 15th Regiment.*
Inge's (W. M.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 12th Battalion.*
Jackson's (Ezra P.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 58th Regiment.*
Jackson's (W. H.) **Cavalry.** See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
Johnson's Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Johnson's (W. H.) **Cavalry.** See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 28th Regiment.*
Johnston's (J. W.) **Artillery.** See *Botetourt Artillery.*
Jones' (Theodore) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 30th Regiment.*
Keigwin's (James) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 49th Regiment.*
Kelly's (John H.) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 114th Regiment.*

Kimball's (Charles B.) Artillery. See *Wisconsin Troops, 1st Battery.*
Kinsman's (William H.) Infantry. See *Iowa Troops, 23d Regiment.*
Klauss' (Martin) Artillery. See *Indiana Troops, 1st Battery.*
Lan Igraeber's (Clemens) Artillery. See *Missouri Troops, Union.*
Landis' (John C.) Artillery. See *Missouri Troops, Confederate.*
Langan's (John M.) Artillery. See *John C. Landis' Artillery.*
Langley's (Edward) Artillery. See *Maryland Troops, Confederate, 3d Battery.*
Lanphere's (Charles H.) Artillery. See *Michigan Troops, 7th Battery.*
Lewers' (James) Cavalry. See *Wirt Adams' Cavalry.*
L'Hommedieu's (S. S., jr.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 8'd Regiment.*
Lidell's State Troops. (Official designation not of record.) See *Major Lidell.*
Lightburn's (Joseph A. J.) Infantry. See *West Virginia Troops, 4th Regiment.*
Lippincott's (Charles E.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 33d Regiment.*
Lochbihler's (Christian) Infantry. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 35th Regiment.*
Logan's (John A.) Cavalry Escort. See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Loomis' (Reuben) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 6th Regiment.*
Love's (R. C.) Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 4th Regiment.*
Lowry's (Robert) Infantry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 6th Regiment.*
Lucas' (Thomas J.) Infantry. See *Indiana Troops, 16th Regiment.*
Luckett's (W. R.) Cavalry. See *Wirt Adams' Cavalry.*
Macauley's (Daniel) Infantry. See *Indiana Troops, 11th Regiment.*
McClanahan's Cavalry. (Official designation not of record.) See —— *McClanahan.*
McClure's (John) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 57th Regiment.*
McCook's (Edwin S.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 31st Regiment.*
McCown's (James) Infantry. See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 5th Regiment.*
McCulloch's (R.) Cavalry. See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 2d Regiment.*
McDonald's (Asa W.) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
MacGavock's (R. W.) Infantry. See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate, 10th and 30th Regiments.*
McKoin's (John) Cavalry. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate. 13th Battalion.*
McLaughlin's (John A.) Infantry. See *Indiana Troops, 47th Regiment.*
McMillen's (William L.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 95th Regiment.*
MacMurray's (Junius W.) Artillery. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 1st Regiment, Battery M.*
McNeil's (John) Cavalry. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 13th Battalion.*
McPhail's (Enos) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 3d Regiment.*
McPherson's (James B.) Cavalry Escort. See *Ohio Troops, 4th Company.*
Maloney's (Maurice) Infantry.* See *Union Troops, Regulars, 1st Regiment.*
Maltby's (Jasper A.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 45th Regiment.*
Mann's (P. A.) Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 12th Battalion.*
Marsh's (Benjamin F., jr.) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Martin's (Robert) Artillery. See *Georgia Troops.*
Mathews' (Samuel) Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Maxwell's (W. C.) Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Merrill's (Samuel) Infantry. See *Iowa Troops, 21st Regiment.*
Miles' (W. R.) Legion. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate.*
Mississippi Rangers, Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Union.*
Mitchell's (James A.) Artillery. See *Ohio Troops, 16th Battery.*
Mitchell's (W. R.) Partisans. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Montgomery's (Bacon) Cavalry. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 6th Regiment.*
Moore's (Jonathan B.) Infantry. See *Wisconsin Troops, 33d Regiment.*
Morgan's (John H.) Sharpshooters. See *Arkansas Troops, Confiderate, 12th Battalion.*

*Serving as siege artillery.

Mudd's (John J.) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment.*
Mueller's (Alexander) Cavalry. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 4th Regiment.*
Myers' (Benjamin H.) Infantry. See *Indiana Troops, 83d Regiment.*
Nale's (John H.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 41st Regiment.*
Neely's (J. J.) Cavalry. See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
Nelson's (Horatio C.) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
Nelson's (T. M.) Cavalry. See *Georgia Troops.*
Obenchain's (Francis G.) Artillery. See *Botetourt Artillery.*
Oliver's (William S.) Infantry. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 7th Regiment.*
Orr's (J. A.) Infantry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 31st Regiment.*
Osband's (E. D.) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 4th Regiment.*
Owens' (J. A.) Artillery. See *Arkansas Troops, Confederate.*
Pardee's (Don A.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 42d Regiment.*
Parry's (Augustus C.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 47th Regiment.*
Patten's (W. Thompson) Artillery. See *Maryland Troops, Confederate, 3d Battery.*
Patterson's (William F.) Engineers. See *Kentucky Troops, Union.*
Peach Creek Rangers, Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Peats' (Frank F.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 17th Regiment.*
Peoria Light Artillery. See *Illinois Troops, 2d Regiment, Battery A.*
Pettus' (E. W.) Infantry. See *Alabama Troops, 20th Regiment.*
Pettus Flying Artillery. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Pile's (William A.) Infantry. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 33d Regiment.*
Pinson's (R. A.) Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 1st Regiment.*
Pleisch's (Theodore) Infantry. See *Indiana Troops, 60th Regiment.*
Pointe Coupée Artillery. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate.*
Poole's (De Witt C.) Infantry. See *Wisconsin Troops, 12th Regiment.*
Porter's (Edward D.) Cavalry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate.*
Post's (John P.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 8th Regiment.*
Potter's (Leander H.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 33d Regiment.*
Potts' (Benjamin F.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 32d Regiment.*
Prince's (Edward) Cavalry. See *Illinois Troops, 7th Regiment.*
Putnam's (Holden) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 93d Regiment.*
Raum's (Green B.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 56th Regiment.*
Raynor's (William H.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 56th Regiment.*
Rice's (Americus V.) Infantry. See *Ohio Troops, 57th Regiment.*
Rice's (James) Artillery. See *Ohio Troops, 17th Battery.*
Richards' (Evan) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 20th Regiment.*
Richardson's (Robert) Infantry. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 17th Regiment.*
Richardson's (R. V.) Cavalry. See *Tennessee Troops, Confederate.*
Ridley's (S. J.) Artillery See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 1st Regiment, Battery A.*
Riley's (A. C.) Infantry. See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 1st Regiment.*
Rogers' (Henry A.) Artillery. See *Illinois Troops, 1st Regiment, Battery D.*
Rogers' (J. W.) Infantry. See *Arkansas Troops, Confederate, 9th Regiment.*
Rorer's (W. A.) Infantry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 20th Regiment.*
Rutherford's (F. S.) Infantry. See *Illinois Troops, 97th Regiment.*
St. John's (A. P.) Artillery. See *H. H. Sengstak's Artillery.*
Saint Louis Artillery. See *Missouri Troops, Confederate.*
Saint Martin's Rangers, Cavalry. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate.*
Saylor's (Thomas) Cavalry. See *Michigan Troops, 3d Regiment.*
Schofield's (George W.) Artillery. See *Missouri Troops, Union, 1st Regiment, Battery A.*
Scott's (Thomas M.) Infantry. See *Louisiana Troops, Confederate, 12th Regiment.*
Sears' (C. W.) Infantry. See *Mississippi Troops, Confederate, 46th Regiment.*
Sengstak's (H. H.) Artillery. See *Alabama Troops.*

Senteny's (Pembroke S.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Confederate, 2d Regiment.*
Shaaff's (A.) **Sharpshooters.** See *Georgia Troops, 1st Battalion.*
Shedd's (Warren) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 30th Regiment.*
Sheldon's (Charles S.) **Infantry.** See *Missouri Troops, Union, 18th Regiment.*
Shelley's (Charles M.) **Infantry.** See *Alabama Troops, 30th Regiment.*
Shunk's (David) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 8th Regiment.*
Siber's (Edward) **Infantry.** See *Ohio Troops, 37th Regiment.*
Slack's (James R.) **Infantry.** See *Indiana Troops, 47th Regiment.*
Sloan's (Thomas J.) **Infantry.** See *Illinois Troops, 124th Regiment.*
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